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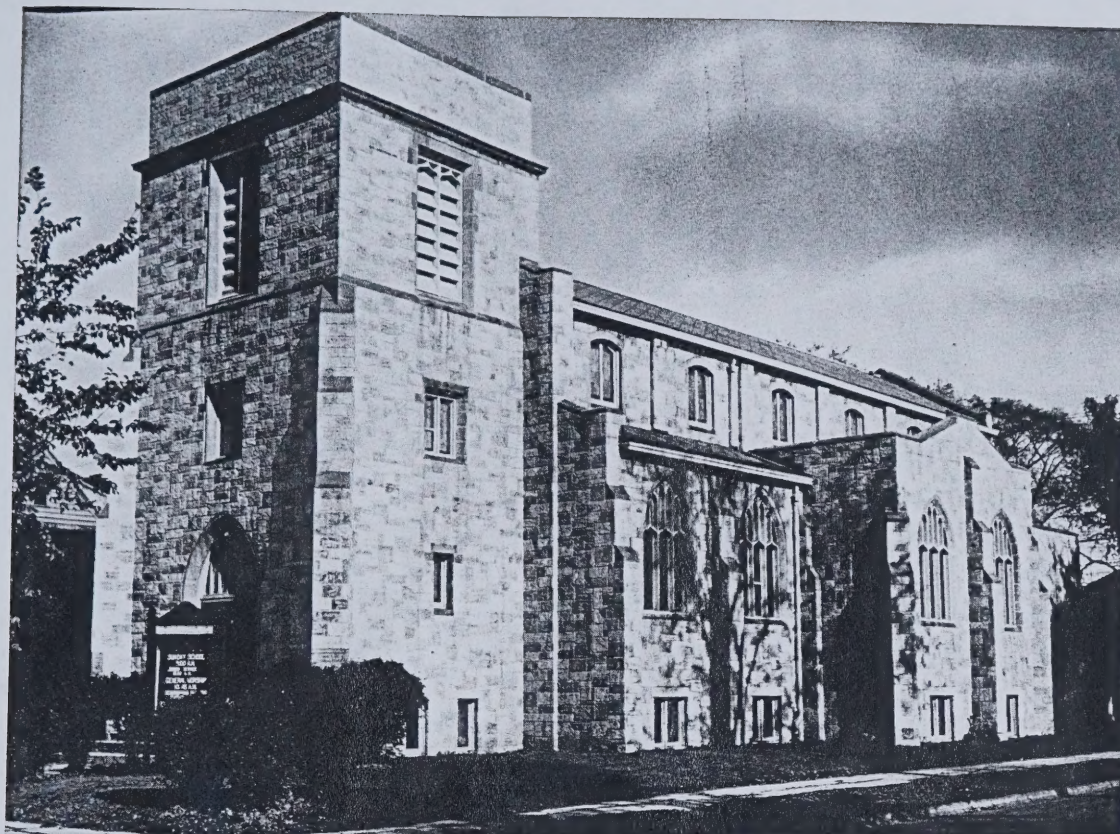
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Jarstad, Anton.
After seventy-five years



After Seventy-Five Years
1867 - 1942

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

A F T E R S E V E N T Y - F I V E Y E A R S

The History of
Den Norske Evangeliske Lutherske Menighed
i Fort Howard, Wisconsin

Now the
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
of Green Bay and Associated Congregations
Zion's Congregation in Glenmore
and
St. John's Congregation in Ashwaubenon

By
ANTON JARSTAD

Assisted by
THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY
OLAF OLSEN MARTIN ONSTAD FRED LIER

*on the occasion of the celebration of our 75th
Anniversary of the founding of the Congregation*
1867 - 1942

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Dedication

Through three quarters of a century there have been times when, as a congregation, we could not see the good motive that prompted the action of the individual. It is now, when years have gone by, and we look into the past, that we see as God wants us to see. To the members departed and present who remained loyal, regardless of the appreciation given, do we dedicate this book.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Board of Trustees, standing: Helmer Johnson, Albert Schley, Olaf A. Olson, John Hansen, Hjalmer Peterson, Harry Anderson, Stanley Ramsett
Board of Deacons, seated: Anfin Haltug, Ed. F. Hanson, Harvey Scory, Rev. T. S. Hanson, Fred Lier, Anton Larsen, A. M. Christenson, Chairman of Joint Boards

Preface

SEVENTY-FIVE years have come and gone since the first Norwegian settlers in Fort Howard, now Green Bay, joined to establish a Lutheran congregation here.

Twenty-five years ago, in our attempt to write the history of our first fifty years, Theodore Huggenvik, now a professor at St. Olaf College, compiled our history from the original records then at hand, but which have since been lost. That history was never printed, but now as we are about to write this history in connection with our 75th Anniversary, we are fortunate in having at hand Professor Huggenvik's notes, for which we are grateful.

From 1911 to the present time, we write exclusively from the records preserved by the Historical Committee.

This book is prepared with the hope that it will convey something about the building of an American religious congregation. The author has been a member for more than thirty years and has taken an active part in all its activities. He has listened to the stories of its charter members, and lived and worked with their succeeding generations.

For almost fifteen years he has been a member of the Historical Committee which was created by the congregation and in this capacity has helped to assemble the congregation's records and the many pictures and relics from which this story is written.

While this book is not offered as a classic, it is historical and relates the truth as to matters of fact. Incidents of past controversies within the congregation have been intentionally omitted to make room for items of a more pleasant nature.

This history has been reviewed by the general committee of the 75th Anniversary, and after its revision, they submit the following for your approval, with the hope that the next twenty-five years will be chronicled and added to this, so that the history of our first century may be written in 1967.

THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE.

Sources

THE EARLIEST RECORD at hand, from which this information is taken, is called "The Church Council's Record." The first business recorded was dated January 15, 1871. The meeting was held in Rev. J. Olson's home. There is a lapse in the record until January 7, 1875. Again the meeting was held in the parsonage and the business at hand was the issue of the call to our second pastor, Rev. Theo. H. Dahl.

The written call to Rev. T. H. Dahl is in the record in the Norwegian language and written in the handwriting of T. H. Grotheim, who apparently was the first secretary of the church council.

The next secretary elected was Mr. M. Gullikson. It appears that he did not act, and the next meeting held in January, 1876, was signed by A. Nordbo. Ole Jorgensen was the secretary for the meeting held May 18, 1876. Jens Knudson was secretary at the meeting held January 19, 1879, but during Rev. Dahl's pastorate most of the records were entered and signed by the pastor.

This record contains parts of the business transacted during the term of each of our pastors up to the present time. There are, however, lapses of years when no record was kept.

The following are the succeeding secretaries:

Peder A. Sater, 1883; Edward Lier, 1892; F. J. Homme, 1899; Andrew Nelson, 1902; John Didrickson, 1912.

There is a vacancy in the record until the meeting held June 4, 1924, which is the first written in the English language and was signed by Anton Larsen.

The record book following this has the date of the first recorded meeting as February 4, 1925. It is called "The Deacons' Record" and has been carefully kept by the succeeding secretaries: Sigvard Olson, 1928; Melvin Anderson, 1930; Arthur T. Dysland, 1933; Olaf A. Olsen, 1937, and Fred Lier at the present time.

The first congregational record of the annual meetings was in existence until about 1916, but since then it cannot be found.

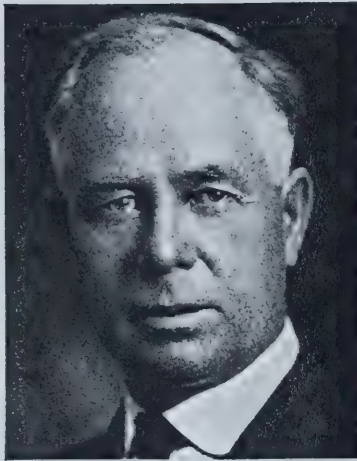
In 1911 Martin Onstad was elected secretary of the congregation and a new book was started which has been continued to the present time.

Since then the following have served as secretaries:

Peter Jorgensen through 1911; Martin Onstad, 1912-1925; Stanley Ramsett, 1925-1929; Anton Larsen, 1929-1931; John Lier, 1931-1933; Olaf Olson, 1937-1941; Fred Lier, 1941-.

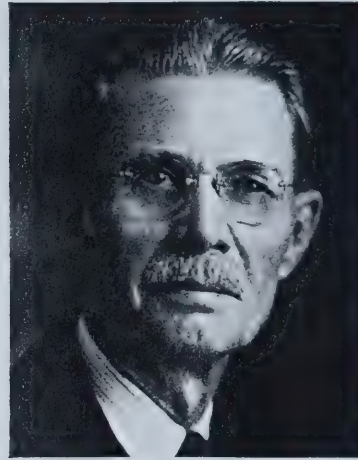
Besides the written records mentioned, there are those recorded in the memory of some of our older members, and which are drawn on at the present time. It is evident that the recollections given here could not have been retained by anyone except those who, besides doing their own work, have given their lifetime to the interests of the church and the building up of a congregation which is now a strong unit in the work of spreading the Gospel of Christianity.

Historical Committee



ANTON JARSTAD

Served in the capacity of Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Building Committee 1914-1915, aided in the organization of the Men's Brotherhood, Chairman of the Synodical Committee, Author of History 1942.



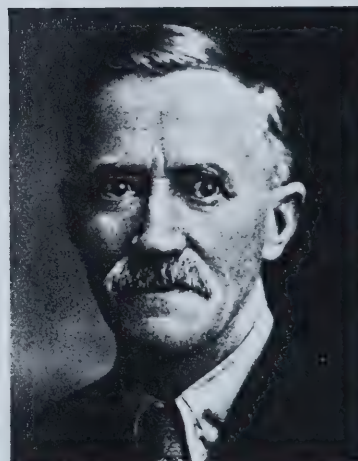
OLAF OLSEN

His services include such as: Aided in the organization of the first Luther League of which he was president, Sunday School Superintendent and Teacher, Secretary of the Congregation, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Charter member of the Men's Brotherhood, member of the Building Committee 1914-1915, member of the Historical Committee.



FRED G. LIER

Trustee 1925-1927, Church Treasurer 1917-18-19, Sunday School Superintendent 1932-1936, Young People's League Adviser 1934-1940, Deacon 1939-1942, Secretary of Congregation 1941-42, Historical Committee 1928-42.



MARTIN A. ONSTAD

Served in the capacity of Trustee, Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, member of the First Choir, member of Building Committee 1914-1915, charter member Men's Brotherhood, Historical Committee. Has given a great deal of his time to all promotions for the advancement of the congregation.

Acknowledgments

THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE wishes to express their deep appreciation to the friends who so kindly have assisted them by their helpful suggestions in the preparation of this history, and express their sincere thanks to all who by words have given encouragement.

All sources of information have been covered; but the recollections of our older members so willingly given is by far the most interesting. It is our hope that many will be cheered by the awakening of memories of long ago, and that all may be inspired to do their best in the future by a knowledge of what has been done in the past.

The writer acknowledges with thanks the historical notes left here by Professor Theodore Huggenvik, the work by Olaf Olson who has had charge of the make-up of the book, the assistance rendered by Martin Onstad in uncovering historical sources and checking for errors.

Mrs. Hans Jacobsen, a former member, contributed the chapter on the early Sunday school.

Mrs. Ruth Le Roy and Miss Lois Larsen supplied facts on our present day Sunday school.

The story of the Owego congregation was provided by members of that church.

The story of the Lily Lake congregation was taken from their record.

Kathryn Ramsett and Irene Hanson retyped the manuscript.

Mrs. Hjalmar Peterson typed the story of the Sunday school and Amanda Synnes typed the general manuscript and gave valuable criticism.

Mrs. Anton Jarstad gathered the facts for the history of the Ladies' Aid.

Lillian Ramseth provided the article on our Luther League.

The article on Zion's Lutheran congregation of Glenmore was written with the assistance of Mr. Ole Peterson, one of their charter members, now 88 years old, and the chapter on their Ladies' Aid was supplied by Mrs. Hendrik Peterson.

The story of the Lessor congregation is taken from material believed to have been compiled by Ole Erickson.

The story of the Dorcas Society is made up from a paper provided by Miss Helen O. Hansen, together with additional facts taken from the records.

Miss Helga Haltug rewrote the chapters "Music" and "Luther League."

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE.

Greetings from the Brown County Ministerial Association

In the midst of all the shifting scenes of life, unmoved and unworn by the currents of time or the changing tides of human sentiment, the Church erected upon the rock of New Testament truth stands firm and steadfast.

We rejoice with you that for seventy-five years, Trinity Church has proclaimed God's everlasting truth to unnumbered souls. As you this year reflect upon the sacred memories hovering around your place of worship, we covet for you more than joyful recollections. We pray that you may hear anew the imperative call of the Kingdom of God commanding that His Church march on.

GIFFORD R. RUBY
President

RALPH LEY
Vice President

HAZEL VERRY
Secretary-Treasurer

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942



*One ship drives east and another west,
While the selfsame breezes blow;
'Tis the set of the sail and not the gale
That bids them where they go.*

*Like the winds of the air are the ways of fate,
As we journey along through life;
'Tis the set of the soul that decides the goal,
And not the storm or the strife.*

—ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

The Little Ship

AMONG our souvenirs gathered during this three quarters of a century is the memory of a little three-masted ship that hung from the church ceiling and was for more than a generation the object of inquiring children. These same children have grown to manhood and womanhood and even now ask questions about the little ship.

In 1915 when the old church was razed, the ship was removed and stored with the intention of replacing it in the new building. This was neglected and the little ship was lost.

In the summer of 1865 Vigleek (Wm.) Orjanson Aga and his widowed mother came to Fort Howard from the farm, Aga in Ullensvang, Hardanger, Norway. He had studied navigation at the University in Bergen and for several years had sailed the high seas. In America he became a captain and sailed the Great Lakes. When navigation closed in the fall he made his home with the Halvor Nelson family, one of our charter members. One winter in the late 70's he built this little ship and gave it to Otto, the little boy in the Nelson family. Otto's father, Halvor, suggested that he give it to the church. This he did. It was hung from the church ceiling and here by its silent presence it dedicated itself to the memory of our Norwegian sailors and shipbuilders who had been organizers of our congregation just a few years before.

More than sixty years have passed since then. The little ship is lost. Otto Nelson is now a resident of Great Falls, Montana. Mr. Aga, the builder, and his wife, Dora Davidson Aga, lie in peaceful rest in Woodlawn Cemetery here. The picture of the ship presented herewith is from an exact reproduction built by Gabriel Jorgenson and loaned to the committee for this purpose.

Earliest Settlers

NORWEGIAN immigration to America began in earnest after the arrival of the ship *Restoration* in 1825. The first permanent settlement was the one at Fox River in northern Illinois in 1835. Other Norwegian communities in Wisconsin originated through this first settlement. These pioneers were men of the soil. They sought fertile land for farms. Some of these first settlements were: Muskego, 1840; Koshkonong, 1842; Winchester, 1848.

History does not reveal any direct connection between the settlements mentioned and the Norwegian group in Fort Howard, now Green Bay. The settlers of Fort Howard were laborers, sailors, shipbuilders, and, in general, people from the towns in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The very earliest settler to become a permanent member of the Norwegian Lutheran congregation of Fort Howard was Mr. Berendt Olson, sometimes called "Olson i Sloua," named so because he lived near a slough on Shawano Avenue. He arrived here in 1855 direct from Ole Bull's colony, Oleanna, in Pennsylvania, where he had been one of the foremen in charge. That was 12 years before our congregation was organized. From then on, others began to make their homes here until a number sufficient to form a congregation of Norwegian Lutherans had arrived.

From the early records as listed, we quote the following:

Organization

In the records of the congregation from 1867 we read the following words:

"In the year 1867, January 6, the following Lutherans in Fort Howard came together in order to form a Norwegian Lutheran congregation:

Eilert Amundsen and wife
Olaus Olsen
Elen Halvorsen
Lars Tallaksen and wife
Johan Svensen Holm and wife
Rasmus Hansen
T. Christiansen and wife
Halvor Nelson and wife
Lorentz Vangberg
Thor Anderson
Gunder Gundersen and wife
F. D. Blichfeldt
O. K. Melby

C. E. Jensen and wife
Miss C. Blichfeldt
Miss F. Blichfeldt
Miss A. Blichfeldt
Miss L. Blichfeldt
Johan Blichfeldt and wife
Hans Jacobsen
Bortenius Arneson and wife
Gunder Gottoemsen
H. J. Sørensen
Hans Knudsen
Fredrik Anderson

"It was then agreed that the congregation shall be governed by four deacons and three trustees.

"In accordance with this decision, an election was held with the result as follows:

Deacons:

F. D. Blichfeldt

T. Christiansen

G. Gundersen

H. J. Sørensen

Trustees:

Eilert Amundsen

Olaus Olsen

C. E. Jensen

"C. E. Jensen was elected secretary and F. D. Blichfeldt acted as chairman of the meeting. It was decided that the newly elected deacons and trustees should form a committee to draft a constitution for the congregation, which draft should be presented to a meeting of the congregation to be held the second Sunday in February. Meeting adjourned."

Thus, in a few words, we have the statement as to the foundation of the congregation. There was a need for the Means of Grace. A congregation was organized that the Means of Grace might be properly administered to the people.

The progress of organization was rapid, for on the second Sunday in February, 1867, the congregation met at the home of T. Christiansen to adopt the constitution. Mr. C. E. Jensen was elected chairman of the meeting and Mr. Frederick Anderson, secretary. A minister of the Gospel, Rev. Kroгнаess, was present, and he suggested that the draft for the congregational constitution, such as used by the Augustana Synod, be made the basis for the constitution of the new congregation. The constitution was unanimously adopted as it is found in the "Forhandlings Protokol," pp. 1-8.* The preamble is significant. It is based on the Word of God which makes "Order Heaven's First Law." The close of the minutes from this meeting is also significant: "And in the same manner as the meeting was begun, with prayer, the reading of Scripture, and a hymn, so it was closed, with song and prayer."

This meeting marks the completion of the organization.

It is interesting to note that among the names listed as charter members, there are still some familiar to us even at this late date. Thor Anderson and Gunder Gunderson, charter members, were the parents of some of our present members.

**Forhandlings Protokol for Den Norsk Evangelisk-Luth. Menighed i Fort Howard, Brown Co., Wis.*, pp. 9 and 10. The list of charter members varies somewhat in different places in the record.

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942

The Charter Members

It is perhaps of interest to note that of the twenty-five persons listed as charter members, we have scant knowledge of only half their number.



Mr. and Mrs. T. Christianson

T. Christenson and wife had their home on the west bank of Fox River, about three miles south of Green Bay. Mr. Christenson was a shipbuilder and had his yard near his home. He died in 1875. One of his daughters married Peter Sater who for many years was a very active member and secretary of our Board of Deacons. He moved to Washington State in the late 90's where he died a few years ago.



Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Nelson

Halvor Nelson was a captain and sailed the Great Lakes. He died many years ago. One of his daughters lives in Florence county, and one, Carrie, Mrs. Duncan, lives in Green Bay. Two sons, Anton and Haldor T., live in Green Bay. Otto L. lives in Great Falls, Montana.

As a young man, possibly 25 years old, Thor Anderson was here and was listed as a charter member. After a few years' absence he married and was again listed as a new member of the church. He was a police officer in Green Bay. He died in 1926.



Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Sorenson, Mr. Gunder Gunderson

Gunder Gunderson lived on the west bank of Fox River, four miles south of our city. Besides farming he was a ship-builder by trade. He died many years ago. Two of his sons, Gustave and Albert, live here, and Paul lives in Oconto, and Esther Sandidge lives in Casper, Wyoming.

Johan Blichfeldt and wife arrived here from Norway in 1866, bringing with them the children here listed as charter members, apparently all grown up. He died here and is buried in Fort Howard Cemetery.

Miss Anna Blichfeldt married Christopher Swendson and for a time they had a general store in Lessor, Shawano county. They were the first couple married in this congregation. The bride's full name was Anna Rebekka Henrikka Blichfeldt. They were married July 31, 1867. Their son, John, lives in Seymour, Wisconsin.

Miss F. Blichfeldt married Captain Larson who was a sailor out of Manitowoc. Two of the children of this couple are said to be professional men and live in Chicago. They spend their summers in Door county.

Hans Jacob Sorenson was the father of Mrs. Thor Anderson. She was a life-long member of our congregation and died here in 1940.

Frederick Anderson lived and died here. He severed his connection with the congregation about 1890.

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942

Minneapolis, Minnesota

October 17, 1941

TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

Greetings!

The children of Rev. Johan Olsen, who served the Trinity Lutheran Church of Green Bay during the years 1867-1873 wish to congratulate your church on the occasion of celebrating your Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

Johan Olsen, born July 3, 1834, in Norway, came to America with his family in 1866, after seven years of study at the University of Oslo. In 1867 he commenced his service in the Fort Howard Church and associated churches, some of which he organized. He worked as a pioneer pastor in this region for six years. On a call from St. Ansgar, Iowa, he moved there in 1873, where he served for thirty years, until 1903, when he resigned on account of advancing years. He was one of the group of men who in 1870 founded the Norwegian-Danish Lutheran Conference, and he served as its president for nine years, 1872-1881. The conference was later merged with other church bodies.

Of his six children who grew to manhood and womanhood, four are now living, and two have passed away during the last few years. Rev. Sigurd Olsen, who during his active years served as a minister and teacher in different places, is now living in Minneapolis. Miss Helga Olsen, a well-known pianist, also lives in Minneapolis. Amalie, Mrs. J. E. Granrud, wife of the late Dr. J. E. Granrud of the University of Minnesota, died in October, 1939. After her husband's death she served for many years in the Charities of the Church. Olaf, Mr. O. O. Erling, for the greater part of his life a businessman in Minneapolis, was very active in the work of the church. He died in March, 1933. Dr. Johan Rolf was, during his active years, a dentist in St. James, Minnesota, and is now retired and living in Minneapolis. Olga, Mrs. Peter Field, wife of Dr. Peter Field of the University of Michigan, lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

After Rev. Johan Olsen's resignation in 1903 he continued to live in his home in St. Ansgar until 1910, when, after the death of his wife, he came to Minneapolis to live with his children. Here he died in 1911, after an illness of several years. His funeral was held in St. Ansgar and he was laid to rest there beside his wife and two of his children who had died in childhood. The place is marked by a beautiful monument erected by his children jointly with the churches of his St. Ansgar charge.

—REV. SIGURD OLSEN.



REV. JOHAN OLSEN
1867-1872

FIRST PASTOR of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Fort Howard, Wisconsin (1867).

He was born at Bindalen, S. Helgeland, Tromsøe, Norway, July 3, 1834. The names of his parents were Ole and Anna Jacobson.

He attended Tromsøe Seminary, 1852-1854, and graduated and received the degree, Seminarist. He taught school at Velfjorden, 1854-57, and at Kaafjords Verkskole, 1857-59. He attended the University at Oslo, Norway, 1859-66 and received the degrees of A.B. and A.M. After this he studied theology for two years at the same University.

He emigrated to the United States in 1866, and became a professor at Augustana Seminary, Paxton, Illinois. The following year he became pastor at Neenah, Wisconsin, and during this year also served the Norwegian Church, Fort Howard, Wisconsin, now the Trinity Lutheran Church, of Green Bay, Wisconsin. The latter part of the year 1872 he left to serve as minister in St. Ansgar, Iowa.

This information was given to the History Committee of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Rev. Sigurd Olsen, his son.

He was vice president of the Conference, 1870-72, and president, 1872 to 1882; editor of paper *Lutheraneren*, 1883-1884; author of a book, *Songs and Hymns*.

He died September 5, 1911, 77 years of age, and is buried at St. Ansgar, Iowa.

First Church Building

REV KROGENAESS was the only pastor who had any part in the work of organization. By May 19, 1867, \$350.00 had been subscribed for a church building, and on the same date they called as pastor, *pro tempore*, Professor Johan Olson, Paxton, Illinois, who was to be ordained during the summer. The church council met on July 7, 1867. Rev. Olson was present. He was pastor of Neenah's and New Denmark's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregations. He was called to preach every third Sunday, as long as he was pastor, *pro tempore*, both in the morning and in the evening (*høimesse og aftensangs gudstjeneste*). Money was to be raised for the minister's salary among members and other Norwegians in Fort Howard.

On July 30, 1867, a building committee was elected, consisting of Tom Christiansen, H. J. Sørensen and G. Gunderson. The church was to be 44 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 16 feet high. In November the church was nearing its completion, as two men were ordered to provide a stove, an altar, the pulpit and lamps. The trustees were empowered to contract for a loan of \$300.00 needed to pay for the furniture.

At the first annual meeting, ten new members were admitted. There were to be five trustees from then on.

In February, 1868, Rev. Johan Olson was elected as regular pastor of the congregation. He was to receive his salary quarterly, beginning from January 6, 1868, and was to pay his own house rent.

Members of the congregation had worked on the church, and their wages, based at \$2.50 to \$3.00 a day, would have amounted to \$369.49. Only \$123.00 of this had to be paid—\$246.49 thus being presented to the congregation. The remaining debt on the church was to be paid.

The ministerial records show the first baptism to be that of Samuel Ingebret, the son of Anders Nilsen and wife, Josephine, born July 27, 1867, and baptized three days later.

In 1869 there were twenty-six members added to the congregation.

The year 1870 was another year of steady progress. Twenty-eight new members were taken in.

In 1870 a sexton (kirkesanger) was elected. This is the first record of such an election. He was to receive an annual offering for his services.

The total adult membership for 1872 was 142. Six new members were admitted this year.

The year 1872 was one of the busiest in the first decade. Seventeen members were received. An organ was purchased, and the pastor was authorized to start a subscription in order to pay for it.

Resignation of Rev. Johan Olsen

IN THIS YEAR the first regular pastor resigned. The answers to his resignation were two. The congregation's reply was: "While this congregation deeply regrets the loss of Rev. J. Olsen as its pastor, it dares not, after the information received, keep him from accepting the call, but leaves it all in the hands of God, and to the further consideration of the pastor." The minority report read: "We believe that Rev. Johan Olsen makes a mistake if he leaves this congregation and accepts the call from St. Ansgar, Iowa, because we believe that this congregation will suffer a greater damage by losing him than St. Ansgar will by not getting him." The resignation, however, went into effect, and the congregation lost its first regular pastor. At this time there was present in the congregation Rev. J. H. Grøtheim. He served as secretary at the meetings and also as sexton for some time.

Rev. Lund was asked to come and preach a trial sermon. In the meantime, the congregation went on to consider plans for the future. It was decided to have services in Fort Howard (Green Bay) every Sunday except six. The minister's annual salary was fixed at \$500.00, and a levy was to be placed on each member in order to raise this amount. But how could a pastor, who was to serve twelve congregations, preach every Sunday in one place? The congregation had a desire to hear more of God's Word, but the time and conditions would not allow it, and the decision was not carried out.

Rev. T. H. Dahl Accepts Call

A CALL was extended to Rev. Theodore H. Dahl on December 17, 1872, which he accepted. Rev. Gjertsen served the congregation until the new pastor could take up his work.

In 1873, it was decided that St. John's Congregation in Ashwaubenon should pay its share of the minister's salary in proportion to the number of voting members, which then was 23. They were to pay \$138.55. There was no separate congregation in the Town of Ashwaubenon then but it was what was usually termed a "preaching place." In May, 1873, a petition came from the "Settlement" where a meeting had been held May 26, asking permission to form a separate congregation as an annexation to the congregation in Fort Howard. The two congregations were thus to have the same minister, and to begin with, the new congregation asked for only the same amount of services as it had had before. The new congregation planned to build a church the same year. The petition was granted, and thus was formed the Congregation of St. John in the Town of Ashwaubenon.

Installation of Rev. T. H. Dahl

REV. T. H. DAHL was installed March 23, 1873, and became the second regular pastor. The text he used for his first sermon are the words of Philip: "From whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?" (John 6:5.)

In 1874 the church and lot were offered for sale. The selling price was to be not less than \$1,800.00. The reason for this move was that the church had become too small. But the church was not sold. It was enlarged. The first church was located one lot north of where the Commercial Printing Company now stands. It was decided to lengthen the building 24 feet, and to add a tower and a balcony. The plan for this remodelling was furnished by Mr. Jonas Ellingson at a cost of \$9.45. There was a constant growth in the membership. On July 23, 1873, eleven new members were admitted, and on January 6 of the next year 15 more were taken in.

On January 6, 1874, they decided that St. John's Congregation should have services every fourth Sunday in the forenoon and every third Sunday in the afternoon for one year, and that they should pay \$150.00 toward the pastor's salary. There were to be four deacons from then on. The annual meeting of the congregation was changed to January 8th instead of January 6th. Anders Jacobsen was elected usher (the need of an usher had now become apparent).

A number of Swedish people applied for the use of the church, but as their preacher was not a member of the Swedish Augustana Synod, and since his Lutheranism was rather doubtful, the request was not granted.

The duties of the janitor were also defined, and his pay was fixed at \$15.00 a year. In 1875 his pay was raised to \$20.00. The work on the church progressed

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942

Greetings by Theodor R. Dahl
on behalf of his father and mother

October Third

1941

DEN NORSKE EVANGELISKE LUTHERSKE KIRKE
FORT HOWARD, WISCONSIN

Dear Pastor, Officers and Members of the Congregation:

It is a great privilege to have the opportunity of bringing to you and your church, greetings and congratulations on your seventy-fifth anniversary on behalf of your pastor and his family of sixty years ago . . . the family of Theodore Halvorsen Dahl. We rejoice with you in celebrating three-quarters of a century in bringing to your people the message of Jesus Christ.

We of our family are very proud of our father and mother who spent their entire lives in the service of our church. From the pioneering hardships of Northern Wisconsin to the Presidency of the Synod, father and mother labored for over fifty years preaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our father left Fort Howard in 1881 to accept a call from Stoughton, Wisconsin. He served as the Pastor of that congregation until 1902 when he was elected President of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. He continued as President of the Synod for fifteen years. From 1917 until his death he served as Rector of Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Father was born in Baastad, Norway, on April 2, 1845. In 1905 the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him by Augustana College. He was knighted by the King of Norway in 1908 for his work among the Norwegian people in this country, being made a Ridder av 1 kl. Sanct Olav's Orden. Dr. T. H. Dahl was happy to be taken to his Heavenly Father on January 18, 1923.

Father married Rebekka Oline Gjertsen in 1867. Six children were born to the pastor and his wife . . . three boys and three girls . . . four of whom are still alive. Our mother was born to the J. P. Gjertsen family near Bergen, Norway. In her long and active life she served by her husband's side in the work of the Lord. She originated, organized and was President for six years of The Women's Missionary Federation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. The Lena Dahl Girls' School in China was dedicated to her memory soon after her death. She preceded her husband's death by a few months.

On the top of a wooded knoll in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the foot of a marble shaft pointing toward heaven lie the bodies of Dr. and Mrs. Theodor H. Dahl whose souls are surely with God in His Kingdom. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the Death of His Saints."

THEODOR R. DAHL
President of Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Cleveland, Ohio



REV. T. H. DAHL

rapidly, and the trustees were empowered to borrow money to complete the job. The running expenses for 1874 amounted to \$336.23; the income was \$340.07. These figures do not include the pastor's salary.

The Norwegian Ladies' Sewing Society (Ladies' Aid) presented \$343.67 to the church for furniture and decorations. The work of this society was praised very highly. This is the first mention in the records of the Ladies' Aid. The fact that they had this sum of money is evidence that they were in existence previous to 1873.

Rev. Dahl received a call from Ronning Valley, Wisconsin. He laid the matter before the congregation, and it was unanimously decided that he should remain in Fort Howard.

Depression of 1873 Causes Difficulty for Pastor and Congregation

THE FIRST TWO YEARS of Rev. Dahl's time here from 1873 to 1875 were difficult years. The panic of 1873 was felt very keenly by the laboring classes and money was not easily obtained. Services were required by St. John's Congregation. This additional work and the pastor's desire to please, resulted in overwork, and he was forced to ask for a six months' leave of absence, which was spent in company

with Gunder Ellingson on a trip to Norway. The congregation desired more frequent services, and there was a constant agitation for the reduction of the debt incurred by the enlargement of the church.

The synod was asking for financial aid to help pay the salaries of the professors in their newly established college, but this could not be given. The congregation was behind in its payments to the pastor. Perhaps this situation was due to hard times, but it seems quite evident that the method of doing business was faulty and added much to the difficulty.

The year 1876 brought in 21 new members. There was a request for a further division of the pastor's services. A congregation had been formed at Marinette and wanted services by Rev. Dahl. It was arranged that Marinette should have services every fourth Sunday from July, 1876, to January, 1877, and they agreed to pay \$55.00 toward the pastor's salary.

At this time Rev. Dahl was serving twelve different groups in various parts of the surrounding country. Many of the members of the home congregation moved away in search of employment and the upkeep of the congregation and pastor here became too heavy for those remaining. The result was that the congregation dropped back to the status of a station to be supported by the synod.

H. J. Sorenson was chosen to attend the convention of the Conference, the newly organized synod. This is the first instance recorded of a delegate being sent to the meeting of a synod.

Evidently there were within the congregation some very shrewd business men. The congregation rented a house for the pastor, but for this they deducted \$50.00 from his salary. At this same meeting Rev. Dahl offered to teach the children without any additional pay.

Second Decade Shows Improvement

BY THE END of the first ten years the church had become too small and the problem of rebuilding was confronting the members. The first pastor had resigned and a second pastor had served four years. The growth of the congregation was constant and encouraging. The adult membership in 1871 was 142. The total number of voting members in 1873 was 83—23 of which lived in Ashwaubenon. In 1876 there were nine divine services. The following two years there were twenty-three services each year. Forty-one persons were confirmed in the first decade, 311 baptized, 89 buried, and 112 couples were married. These figures include many from other congregations as no separate books were kept.

The congregation at Ishpeming, Michigan, needed a pastor and petitioned Fort Howard to share their minister with them.

In 1877 Rev. Dahl was permitted to serve Ishpeming four Sundays for one year, and for this privilege his salary was to be reduced by \$40.00. This gives us a picture of the general conditions as follows: The congregation was unable to collect enough money to cover the pastor's salary of \$450.00. They were also willing to give up four Sunday services. This may have been charity to the people at Ishpeming, but it does not show any prosperity at home as we notice that \$40.00 was deducted from the pastor's salary because he was to get that much from Ishpeming.

The Fort Howard congregation required one-half of the Sunday services during the year 1878. A subscription list was to be circulated, and an offering was to be taken up during the year to pay the debt of \$475.00.

The struggle for the minister's salary still continued. This situation revealed a poor business system which so frequently characterized early congregational methods. This condition was not due to a dislike of the pastor nor to the inability of the members to pay.

The following year, 1879, the debt was cleared. There was much discussion as to methods of collecting money. It was decided that ten cents per month should be collected from each member for current expenses.

At the meeting of the church council held May 20, 1880, Rev. Dahl resigned from serving the outlying congregations at Marinette, Peshtigo, Oconto, and Ishpeming, Michigan. He retained Fort Howard, Lessor, Owego, and Ashwaubenon. Glenmore was added later.

Of the congregations released from the call at that time, Ishpeming, Michigan, has remained intact and is at the present time served by Rev. P. E. Bongsto, a former pastor here. The other congregations have been discontinued or absorbed by other synods.

On December 16, 1880, Rev. Dahl's resignation was again taken up. The pastor informed the congregation that he could not remain; that he had accepted a call from Stoughton, Wisconsin.

It is interesting to note at this point that the first confirmation service at St. John's Church in Ashwaubenon was to be the last official act of Rev. Dahl for that congregation.

This class consisted of the following:

Bert Larson, now living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Miss Carrie Nelson, now Mrs. John Duncan, residing in Green Bay, who is a daughter of our charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Nelson; and John Eliason, Peter Jacobson, Albertina Johnson.

Greetings to Trinity and Associated Congregations

This celebration of the 75th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church gives concrete evidence, that the work of the Lord down through the years has not been in vain. Three quarters of a century is no mean span of life. It comprises the period of immigration, of transition from a foreign language to our own—the rooting and growth upon American soil. The preservation of our Lutheran heritage, the spiritual and numerical growth of the church, its modern and beautiful church and parsonage are no small accomplishments. For all this I felicitate the congregation. Many a memory centers about Trinity Lutheran Church. With grateful hearts we call to mind the men and women, who under God faithfully labored and sacrificed and to whose labors and sacrifices we are heirs. May God continue to bless Trinity Congregation in the years that are yet to come.

RUDOLPH W. PETERSEN

Glenwood City, Wis., November 11, 1941.

*1867**After Seventy-five Years**1942*



REV. ADOLPH PETERSON

THE REV. ADOLPH PETERSON was born August 10, 1848, at Alten, Tromsø siff, Norway. Here he received his preliminary education and one of his teachers, Johan Olsen, was later pastor at Green Bay. In 1869, at the behest of one Mr. Douglas, he emigrated to Calumet, Michigan. Here he became acquainted with Rev. N. E. Boe, who urged him to attend Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota, which he did in 1874. In 1879 he was joined in marriage to Miss Helga Ellingsgaard. For a little while he had charge of the congregations at Heron Lake, Minnesota. In 1881 he was graduated from Augsburg and ordained the same year upon a call from the congregations at and near Green Bay. Here he did pioneer work, serving up to seven congregations. He was instrumental in the erection of three churches. A great portion of his life was spent in the buggy. Yet he found time to be enthusiastically interested in chorales of Lindeman, the philosophy of Søren Kierkegaard, the writings of English statesmen, etc.

In 1911 he retired to live with his son at Fisher, Minnesota. While here he temporarily served Hafslo congregation, Polk county. He died at Fisher, Minnesota, on December 25, 1915, and was buried there.

MRS. HELGA PETERSEN was born February 5, 1849, on Ellingsgaard, one of the largest "gaards" in Aal, Hallingdal, Norway. In 1876 she came to Pastor Gjeldaker, Silver Lake, Iowa, who had just been called as professor to Augsburg. With the Gjeldaker family she came to Minneapolis and met Student Adolph Petersen. After their marriage they lived a short time at Heron Lake and Minneapolis before coming to Green Bay or rather Fort Howard. She was a very capable and a faithful worker. Upon the death of her husband and the marriage of her son, she decided upon a visit to her only brother, still living in Aal. Shortly after her arrival she took sick and died January 8, 1920, and was buried beside the church where she had been baptized and confirmed and where past generations of her family now rest.

Installation of Rev. Adolph Peterson

THE CONGREGATION advertised in *Lutheraneren*, a Norwegian Church paper, for a new pastor. The salary offered was \$450.00 per year with three offerings.

On the fifth Sunday after Easter, 1881, Rev. Dahl preached his farewell sermon, and thus ended the services of the second regular pastor. On June 10, 1881, a call was issued to Rev. Adolph Peterson.

On September 1, 1881, Rev. Dahl came from Stoughton to install Rev. Peterson. At this date began a period of service longer and more eventful than any other in the history of this church. The new pastor was a young man whose very life was progress, and here he found much to do.

Shortly after the new pastor's arrival, an offering for the synod was taken up, which was equally divided between the synod and the schools.

The per capita levy of 10c for general expenses was discontinued and the year 1882 began with a promise of much good work.

A committee was appointed to purchase a lot just south of the church, to find the cost of building a larger vestry and to have the constitution printed.

The committee on the vestry reported that the proposed addition would cost \$300.00. The church needed painting, but both the building of the vestry and the painting of the church were postponed because of the matter of building a parsonage received the undivided attention of the congregation.

There were about 120 communicant members in the congregation. Each member was asked to contribute 50c toward the salary of the organist. The schools and students of the synod again received an offering from the congregation, and \$23.00 was subscribed for sufferers in Finnmarken, Norway.

Rev. Peterson decided to push the matter of a parochial school within the congregation and called an extra meeting to discuss the matter. He had to teach

the children, and we note that they were promised a picnic after the close of school. In the year 1882 the janitor's salary was raised to \$30.00 per year.

On October 30, 1882, a delegation came from Glenmore to ask Fort Howard to further share their pastor with them. Glenmore up to this time had received occasional services from the pastor of the Danish Lutheran Church at New Denmark. It was arranged that they should receive afternoon services once each month, and such further service as it might be possible for the pastor to give.

Glenmore Church Under Construction Dedicated in October, 1885, by Rev. Adolph Peterson

THE CHURCH at Glenmore was under construction and was not dedicated until October, 1885. The writer was present at this dedication service and his recollection of the day brings back mental pictures of a very large and happy gathering of people, as they assembled in the unfinished church building for their first service. Rev. Adolph Peterson was then a young man and is remembered as a man of striking personality and a forceful pulpit speaker.

First Parsonage

THE PASTOR'S RESIDENCE up to this time was a small cottage built by Rev. Olson on the southeast corner of School Place and South Chestnut Avenue. It was later



FIRST PARSONAGE
Built by Rev. Johan Olsen, 1871
Corner of Chestnut and School Place

sold and moved to South Ashland Avenue just north of the Green Bay & Western tracks on the east side of the street where it still stands. With the exception of the pillars in front, it is the same as it was when built by Rev. Olson 75 years ago. It was to this cottage that Rev. T. H. Dahl took his family of six children, three boys and three girls, and made it his home until the summer of 1876 when he moved into the house now standing on the second lot north of the present parsonage. This was a location closer to the church and a house that had the necessary room for his growing family. Here he lived until 1881, when he left to take up his new work at Stoughton, Wisconsin. After Rev. Dahl vacated the little parsonage, it was rented to Jorgen Hansen until the arrival of Rev. Adolph Peterson, who then made it his home until the second parsonage was built in 1882.

Second Parsonage

WHERE TO LOCATE this second parsonage was a question. Some of the people wanted to place it somewhere on the South Side, but the majority prevailed and it was built on the northeast corner of South Chestnut and Arndt Streets where the church now stands. It was later moved one lot to the north to make room for the church, which in 1896 was moved from Broadway to its present location.

There was also a division of opinion as to the size and architecture of the proposed new home for Rev. Peterson. A small group was in favor of a large, square two-story wooden structure which would have been quite beyond the means of the congregation. The final decision was for a smaller brick building. This remained the home of Rev. Peterson as long as he was the pastor here. It was also the home of Rev. P. E. Bongsto until the close of his pastorate, and was then occupied by Rev. T. S. Hanson, our present pastor, from July, 1928, until the following summer when it was razed to make room for the present building.

The congregations in Ashwaubenon and Glenmore were very liberal in their financial aid toward this new parsonage. Money was brought in by both congregations, and it is said that donations of lumber came from Isaiah Stetson, who then had a saw-mill in Glenmore.

In the early 90's an addition was built to the parsonage. This undertaking led to some very difficult questions of a constitutional nature. It appears that the trustees were not very enthusiastic about the improvements that were proposed. This was probably due to the difficulty of providing the necessary funds. The ladies saw the need of improvements. They desired to add a bay window to the south of the building and there were also other minor changes needed, but where was the money to come from?



PARSONAGE

Erected in 1882. Replaced by the New One in 1930

The pastor turned to the Ladies' Aid who at once responded with the necessary funds. The constitutional question was whether any organization other than the trustees had the power to repair the property of the congregation. Whether this legal question was ever properly adjudicated or not, the records do not state; but nevertheless the repairs were made, the bay window was added, the kitchen was built, and the ladies paid the bill.

Closing Years of Second Decade Encouraging

IN THE YEAR 1883 the 10c per month from each family for general expenses was again revived, and each confirmed member was required to contribute 25c toward the pay of the organist. Rev. Peterson received a call from another congregation, but he was retained here. The trustees were authorized to borrow \$700.00 at 7 per cent interest to pay the debt on the property. The Ladies' Aid was thanked for their interest and help in the building of the parsonage.

The financial statement for the year 1883 revealed only a very small amount of business. There were two separate accounts—the pastor's salary and the general

expenses. The general business was reported as follows: Collected \$65.66. Of this, \$31.20 was collected by the 10c levy. Expenses \$88.19. Unpaid bills of \$22.53. \$240.00 was collected toward the minister's salary. After January 8, 1884, the janitor was to receive \$40.00 per year. The organist asked \$60.00 per year and the pastor's salary was fixed at \$255.00 and free house. The pastor also received additional salary from the congregations in Ashwaubenon, Glenmore, Lessor, and Owego.

In 1885 the paid janitor was discontinued, and henceforth this work was to be done by volunteer members without pay. Just how successful this method of keeping the church in order proved to be, the records again fail to show.

The following year there was a decided upward trend in the church finances. A surplus of \$1.23 was reported in the general business, and the income for the pastor's salary was \$46.00 over the required sum. The pastor emphasized the importance of the Sunday and parochial schools.

At the end of the second decade we find that in many ways the progress and success of the church work was increasing. The congregation had built a parsonage. The debt incurred by the enlargement of the church had been paid. The membership had increased. The congregation's obligation to the synod was receiving some attention and during this ten-year period there were 73 persons confirmed, 321 baptized, 82 couples married, and 69 were buried.

The annual meeting for the year 1886 was taken up with two questions that called for much debate. These questions were: Should the old poplar trees be cut down, and should the old fence be removed? Interest in these matters brought out some very eloquent pleas in defense of the trees and the fence. After much argument and delay, the trees were cut down and the fence removed.

Third Decade: Installation of Bell, Activity in Parochial School

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION of the congregation in 1887 was good: Income \$773.49—Expense \$756.99. The Ladies' Aid contributed \$226.00. The pastor's salary was included in the sums mentioned. In 1884 there was a debt of \$600.00. By 1888 this was paid, and the "10c lists" were again discontinued. The Ladies' Aid received the official thanks of the congregation for its very active part in financing the affairs of the church.

The bell was purchased in 1888 and since that time has regularly called together the membership to worship in the House of the Lord. The inscription on the bell is significant. It is in the Norwegian language as follows: "Kommer hid til mig alle I som arbeide og ere besværede, og jeg vil give eder hvile" (Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest). Matthew 11:28.

In 1890 it was proposed to form one call of the congregations of Fort Howard, Ashwaubenon, and Glenmore but this was not realized until later. The same year it was decided to join the United Lutheran Synod which had just been organized.

In 1891 preparations were being made to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the congregation. A committee on history was elected, headed by Rev. Peterson. This history was to be written in five-year periods, and printed in pamphlet form. This was not carried out. At this annual meeting, Rev. Peterson read his report choosing as his text: "Let us not be weary in well-doing" (Gal. 6:9). He emphasized the spirit of unity which had prevailed in the congregation, and expressed his appreciation of the fact that the confirmation class of the previous year attended Sunday school.

At a later meeting that year the pastor's salary was fixed at \$305 with parsonage. Rev. Peterson had for a period of three years received a total of \$90 more than his salary. The excess was voted to him as an appreciation from the congregation. There was progress in the financial dealings as well as in other matters. The church was to be painted and \$39 was promised for this purpose.

The annual report for this year shows that 144 had taken communion, that the congregation had 200 communicant members, and that the Ladies' Aid donated \$23 to foreign missions. The pastor recommended that in the near future an offering would be taken up for home and foreign missions.



REV. ADOLPH PETERSON

Ready to return to city after having served a country congregation

Horse and Buggy

By 1892 the congregations served by the Rev. Peterson had reached their most active years. It was almost twenty years since organization. The children of the first families were nearing confirmation age and required instruction which could be given only by the pastor.

The four congregations in this call outside of the city lay in opposite directions and were reached only by horse and buggy.

Owego and Lessor were 15 and 25 miles to the west, respectively; Lily Lake was 13 miles east; and Glenmore was 16 miles south. Those were the days that taxed the pastor's strength. Rev. Peterson knew his horses and drove only good ones. For a period he used a team. It was a delight for the country boy to be permitted to unhitch the team, and again to help hitch up for his return trip after services were over.

A part of the pastor's salary was a contribution of oats by the farmers. And today many of our older members do recall, when as boys, they drove from farm to farm with the team and lumber wagon gathering the grain for a trip to town

with feed for the pastor's horses. This gathering usually took place in the fall just after threshing time, and it was a source of pleasure for the wives to send a piece of fresh meat, or a dressed chicken, to the pastor's home

In the year 1895 there was a decided slump in the financial standing of the congregation. The pastor had not received all his salary and again we find Rev. Peterson donating to the congregation all they were in arrears.

Removal of Church Building from Broadway to Corner of Chestnut and Arndt Street

IN 1896 the church was moved from Broadway to its present location. To make room for the church, the parsonage was moved one lot north to where the present parsonage is located.

The first church building, located on Broadway, was placed on cedar posts. When it was enlarged in 1873, it was put on stone pillars, but in its new location it was placed on a stone foundation. The cornerstone here was laid with fitting ceremonies by Prof. F. A. Schmidt on June 28, 1896

The officers of the congregation at the time were: Edward Lier, Sigurd Larson, Axel Johnson, Anders Jacobson, Martin Onstad, Ole Jorgenson, Andrew Johnson, Fred Homme, and Ole Nelsen. The sexton was Andrew Nelson. Rev. Peterson read a brief history of the congregation, a copy of which was placed in the cornerstone.

Thus ended the third decade—eventful in many ways: The 25th Anniversary of the church had been observed, the church was moved, and a new organ had been purchased. The growth in membership was not as marked as in the previous decade, and yet several families and individuals had been added to the congregation. One hundred sixty-seven persons were confirmed during this period, 303 were baptized, and 80 couples were married.

The year 1895 marked the consolidation of the City of Fort Howard with the City of Green Bay. This required the congregation to be re-incorporated as of Green Bay.

In 1901 the old oil lamps were discontinued and electric lights were installed. The records give the young people of the congregation credit for this change. The interest in the business meetings increased. The question of legal membership came before the house, and 44 members carried the vote for strict enforcement of the constitution. It is gratifying to note that the pioneer people, even at that early date, believed in good citizenship

Art Glass Windows, New Pews Installed, Decorating

ON DECEMBER 16, 1902, it was decided to decorate the church and to build an addition to it so as to give the building the shape of a Latin cross. In 1903 it was also decided to install art glass windows. The idea of the new shape of the building was not carried out, but \$300 was subscribed for decorating and with the aid of individuals, the Young People's Society, the Dorcas Society, and the Ladies' Aid the windows were procured at a cost of \$365. The Ladies' Aid promised three windows, but furnished only one, for the interest in this work was so great that more money than was needed was contributed. The pastor expressed his appreciation.

In 1903 an offering was taken up for Rev. Peterson and son as an appreciation for their work in the parochial school during the three preceding summers. The pastor's salary still remained at \$305. The finances for 1902 were as follows:

Income	\$427.34
Expense	\$399.22

For 1903:

Income	\$398.05
Expense	\$384.77

The debt of the congregation in 1903 amounted to \$296.41. Rev. Peterson in his annual report calls the year 1903 "et merkeaar in kirkens historie" (a banner year in our history). There was a will to do. A new generation was coming into being, and with it there was a desire for progress. Some of the older people who had been leading in the past were satisfied to step aside to let newer ideas prevail.

In 1902 new pews were installed and \$395.75 was collected for this improvement. The expenses in connection with the decorating of the church amounted to \$706.22. The pews formed a separate item.

In 1905 the congregation held its 38th annual meeting. Rev. Peterson spoke about the peace and unity that existed. He mentioned the work of the Young People's League, the Sunday school, and the parochial school. The parochial school he called "menigheden's grundlæggende arbeide" (the congregation's foundation work). We note at this point that since 1896 the minister's salary had been paid regularly each year before the annual meeting.

1905: Income \$474.11; Expense \$465.59.

At the annual meeting in 1906 the pastor complained of a lack of energy in himself, and especially in connection with the confirmation class. He complained because the boys would not sing in the choir. He praised the work of the Ladies' Aid very highly. Again a decade was brought to its close—in many ways the most active in the history of the congregation up to 1907. But in regard to growth of membership, it was least active of all in the whole history of the church.

The figures given for the fourth decade are only approximate:

1897-1907:

Baptized	201
Confirmed	130
Married (couples)	61
Buried	75
Communicants	778

Fifth Decade: Language Question, Rev. Peterson Resigns

AT THE fortieth annual meeting of the congregation, January 8, 1907, three families were admitted to membership. There seemed to be much enthusiasm. The members wanted to do something. The debt of \$260.00 was to be paid as soon as possible. A committee was appointed to determine the cost of building a new vestry and a basement under the church. Here was the beginning of the new church which was finished in 1916, for the new vestry was never built, nor was a basement put under the old church. A new edifice took the place of the old. The finances for 1907 were as follows:

Income \$727.05, Expense \$681.75.

In 1911 the congregation was admitted to membership in the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

For many years past they had experienced the effect of what was known as the transition period. Up to this time the prevailing language had been Norwegian, but the children coming from common schools where English was their language, both spoken and written, desired the English language in the church, and because this could not be had, some left the congregation to join other churches where their children might have the benefit of the language that ultimately would be theirs.

On April 18, 1911, at an adjourned annual meeting, it was decided that English services should be held twice a month; the other services for the month were

to remain in the Norwegian language as before. There were now two distinct factions among the members, each championing the cause of its own language. The pastor's resignation, dated April 23, 1911, was before the congregation at a meeting of May 2. After some discussion the resignation was accepted and thus was severed a relationship that had existed since 1881, a period of thirty years.

This period of thirty years during which Rev. Peterson and wife served this congregation represents a lifetime. It was here that their best years were spent.

Their only son, Rudolph, grew to manhood here and following his father's wish became a pastor. He was pastor at Fisher, Minnesota, at this time, but was home for a short visit.

When at home he assisted his father with the pastoral work, and it was he who performed their last official act in Green Bay. This was the baptism of a little girl, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Jarstad, 221 South Ashland Avenue. The baby was baptized Ethel and is now the wife of Milton Greiser and resides in Green Bay.

The following morning, October 6, 1911, Rev. Peterson and family left Green Bay to take up their home with their son Rudolph at Fisher, Minnesota. Here Rev. Peterson assisted his son in his duties as pastor and for a time served temporarily Hafslo Congregation in Polk county, Minnesota.

Five years after the death of the Rev. Peterson, Mrs. Peterson was about to realize the long felt desire to visit her childhood home in Norway and see again her only brother, from whom she had parted more than thirty years before.

In July, 1919, Mrs. Peterson left for Norway. She was destined never to return to America. She was taken sick and died at the home of her brother in Aal, Hallingdal, Norway, January 8, 1920. She was laid to rest with her ancestors in the cemetery there, and thus closes the chapter of life of a couple whose memory grows dearer and dearer as the years pass, and the living generation learns to understand.

It would have been a fitting close to this story if it could have been recorded here that this kindly old couple had been taken back to their old home in Green Bay and laid to rest among the environs and the labors of their youth. It was God's will. Blessed be their memory.

Withdrawal of Lessor and Owego Congregations

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS were concerned with the task of securing a new pastor. A committee was appointed to check the congregation to determine who were members. Many who had, up to this time apparently been members, denied this status, although they had attended the church and their children had been brought up through the Sunday school and confirmed by Rev. Peterson. This check did one very valuable thing. It determined who could be relied upon when the congregation needed men to carry on.

Rev. Theo. H. Dahl, who had been our second pastor thirty years before, was now president of the United Lutheran Church and was consulted in regard to our securing a new pastor.

There was much sentiment in favor of severing connections with the other congregations in the call and setting up the Green Bay Congregation as independent. This did not materialize.

On October 15, 1911, representations from Lessor, Glenmore, Owego, and Ashwaubenon were present. Their petition was for the same services as they had had in the past. It was agreed that the pastor to be called should receive \$900.00 per year to be contributed as follows: Green Bay, \$425.00; Lessor, \$200.00; Owego, \$50.00; Glenmore, \$100.00; and Ashwaubenon, \$125.00. Together with this the pastor would receive the use of the parsonage, three festival offerings, and 30 days' vacation with pay. This agreement should be in effect one year, after which Lessor and Owego were to withdraw, and then new agreements would be made with the remaining congregations.

To the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Greetings, with sincerest wishes and prayers for God's richest blessings upon you on this your 75th Anniversary.

Of the thirty-four years which I have spent in the ministry, sixteen of them were spent with you in Green Bay, Wisconsin, from 1912 to 1928.

These years are filled with memories of pleasant associations and many outstanding achievements. My most happy recollection while there is the building of the new church and the purchase of your new organ.

For eight years, just one-half of the time I was your pastor, Mrs. Bongsto was president of the Ladies' Aid, and my success while there is due in great measure to her outstanding help, devotion, loyalty and love.

Our children have all since been married and have established their own homes:

Lloyd lives at Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Oswald is at Herman, Minnesota.

Monrad lives at Hollywood, California.

Mrs. John Trosvig lives at Ishpeming, Michigan.

And now as we live our declining years with pleasant memories of the past, we are happy to have been privileged to serve in our Lord's church for more than thirty-four years, and consider it our greatest blessing in life.

It is, therefore, with a very deep feeling of gratitude to God and to you, the Trinity Lutheran Church of Green Bay, Wisconsin, where I spent almost one-half of my years as a minister, that we now, Mrs. Bongsto and myself, send you our best wishes and prayers for God's rich blessings upon you during this your 75th anniversary. May the seed that has been sown become rooted and grow to bear abundant fruit now and forevermore.

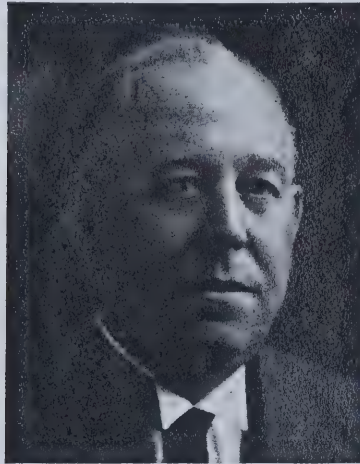
Affectionately and lovingly yours in Christ,

REV. AND MRS. P. E. BONGSTO.

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942



REV. PETER E. BONGSTO

REV. PETER E. BONGSTO was born at Huggenvik, Mandal, Norway. His parents were Tobias Nikolaison and Olovine Elizabeth Peterson Nikolaison. He was reared in a Christian home in a locality where Christian activities and influences flourished in a marked degree. To these early Christian environments, he says, "I owe more than I can express." In the year 1891 he was confirmed and now rejoices that by God's grace he has remained true to his baptismal covenant. He was a sailor and attended Mandal's Navigation School in 1896-1897. In the spring of 1897 he emigrated to America.

He attended the United Church Seminary one year before entering St. Olaf in 1900, where he remained until 1904, when he entered the United Church Seminary again, and graduated here in 1907.

In 1902 he was married to Theodora Marie Høimarck. He was ordained to the ministry at Northfield, Minnesota, in 1907 and became pastor at Woonsocket, S. D., where he remained until 1912 when he was called to serve the Green Bay charge, which then consisted of Trinity Lutheran in Green Bay, Our Savior's at Lessor, Scandinavian Lutheran at Pittsfield, St. John's at Ashwaubenon and Zion's Lutheran Church at Glenmore, Wisconsin.

During the years of his ministry he has had many honors showered upon him.



RECEPTION FOR REV. PETER E. BONGSTO AND FAMILY, ANSGAR HALL, MARCH 6, 1912

While in South Dakota, he was financial secretary of his circuit for two years and also a member of the Board of Directors of Augustana College.

While at Green Bay he was president of Central Wisconsin and Green Bay Circuit Y. P. L. L. for four years. For several years he served on the Board of Directors of the Homme Children's and Old People's Home, and for a time was president of the Green Bay Circuit.

During the first World War the National Lutheran Commission appointed him Captain for Brown county to solicit funds for our Lutheran boys in the army and navy.

He helped in the solicitation of funds for the Endowment of Luther and St. Olaf Colleges.

While at Ishpeming, Michigan, since 1928, he was president of the Green Bay Circuit for five years and also assisted in gathering funds for the Sisters of our Deaconess Home in Chicago and for the secondary schools in the Eastern District.

Since 1928 he has served as pastor to the Lutheran Church at Ishpeming, Michigan, where he is now in 1942.

Rev. P. E. Bongsto's Arrival and Installation

On November 5, 1911, on the recommendation of Rev. T. H. Dahl, a call was sent to Rev. P. E. Bongsto, of Woonsocket, South Dakota.

From October, 1911, until March, 1912, during the vacancy, the congregation was served by visiting pastors. Rev. Bongsto arrived here and was installed by Rev. T. H. Dahl on March 10, 1912. Having been without a pastor for almost a year, the people were very happy at the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Bongsto. A reception was held for them at Ansgar Hall. This reception was well attended—the hall was filled. A short program was rendered. Olaf Olson was master of ceremonies. Rev. Dahl spoke, Andrew Nelson, superintendent of the Sunday school, gave a short history of the congregation, and Anton Jarstad delivered the following address of welcome:

I am happy to bid welcome to our incoming pastor, Rev. P. E. Bongsto, to our most honored guest, Rev. Dahl, and to visiting members and pastors from the surrounding congregations.

This occasion marks the beginning of a new period in the history of our congregation, and our joy this evening at the ushering in of the new is mingled with those sensitive strains of sadness that come with the passing of the old.

Many years have come and gone since the first Scandinavian settlers in this city banded themselves together and organized this congregation. Most of the old charter members

have passed to the great beyond. The few that are with us this evening are not the young and active men and women they were in years gone by. Their locks are white, and in a few years more they, too, will be called hence to their reward, leaving their noble work here to the care of a younger generation.

This evening marks the beginning of a new period in our church history. A period which is the result of natural changes; these changes are taking place, not only in the Norwegian Lutheran congregations throughout the land, but in all organized society, and are a result of an irresistible American influence that is affecting all organizations—religious, political and social.

Our own memory takes us back fifteen or twenty years to a time when we designated different localities as the Polish settlement, the Norwegian settlement. Those distinctions are not heard as frequently today as they were years ago. This illustrates that American influences are gradually wiping out the National distinctions and that we are becoming more and more a people of one common language.

I deem it wise not to discuss whether this change is for the better or for the worse, as it matters little what we think for we have no power whatever to stay or divert it from its chosen path.

I hope there are none here who are unhappy because of this change. If there are, let me say to them: "Let us be happy to know that even though we cannot perpetuate the dear old Scandinavian language, we can perpetuate our religion. Our religion refuses to be affected by any influence. Our language and habits may change, but our religion never changes. That true religion bred into our very souls by our parents, who in turn received it from their fathers and mothers way back in the dear Scandinavian lands, we will not change, but transmit it unsullied and pure to our children, who in their turn will hand it on to theirs."

Let us all be admonished to look at the past with kindly feelings and thoughts, and in the language of the poet:

"Let the dead past bury its dead
Act, act in the living present
Heart within and God o'erhead."

In the future let us try to be just and liberal in our church affairs, let us all act as a unit and in harmony with the will of the majority. Let us feel that all things are for the best; life is too short to nourish ill feeling toward anyone. Let us forget fancied grievances and imaginary wrongs. We shall join with heart and hand in one common purpose, be broad-minded and have our church-work cover as wide a field as possible.

As our leader in this work, and as our Spiritual advisor, our choice has fallen to you, Rev. Bongsto, and I at this time on behalf of the Scandinavian Americans bid you a most hearty welcome, and at this time pledge to you our loyal support and faithful cooperation in all your work. May your good work go on among us uninterrupted for many years to come. May your words of truth bring cheer and comfort to our homes. May you join with us and we with you in making this congregation one, not of scattered efforts, but a united whole for the development of God's noble truth.

Rev. Bongsto entered upon his new work with much vigor and enthusiasm. He was then a young man in his early 30's. There was much to be done. The congregation was in the midst of the transition period, going from the Norwegian to the English language. This period required much tact and careful leadership.

The language question was uppermost. What part of the services should be English? On April 16, 1912, it was decided that the English and Norwegian services should alternate.

On September 12, 1912, a special meeting was called to consider the request for aid toward the Jubilee Fund. This fund was to pay the debt to the Synod.

Mr. James J. Hill, the railroad builder, had promised to donate \$50,000.00 if the Synod would raise \$200,000.00. The congregation's quota of this was \$875. This was a large figure for a congregation that had had difficulty in raising one-half of this sum for the minister's salary.

The committee appointed for this task was Rev. Bongsto, Anton Hansen and Martin Onstad.

On January 8, 1913, this committee reported \$662 subscribed, and \$200 of this had been sent to headquarters.

The question of Woman's Suffrage became an important issue. It was not so much a demand by the ladies as it was the conscience of the men being awakened to the fact that the ladies through their Aid had in the past been providers of the means with which the church work had been carried on, and that it was wrong both in duty and principle to any longer withhold from them the right to an equal share of the privilege and duty of shaping the destinies and policies of the congregation. As this required an amendment to the constitution, paragraph four, article seven, it was tabled until the next annual meeting when it would come up for ratification.

It had been decided to sever connections with Our Saviour's congregation in Lessor, located in Shawano county, but on January 8, 1913, a letter from Lessor was read, asking permission to remain in the call for another year. This was granted.

The English language was being introduced into the church work, members of other nationalities were coming into the congregation, and the question of a change in the name from "Den Norske Evangeliske Lutherske Kirke" to some other name more general as to nationality became a leading issue.

Rev. Bongsto's first annual report to the congregation was given at the meeting held January 8, 1913, and is as follows:

Services	53
New members	51
Baptized	20
Confirmed	12
Communicants	250

The janitor's pay was raised to \$75.00 per year.

A committee was appointed to look into the matter of improving the condition of the church so as to make it warmer and more comfortable. And on March 19, 1913, the committee reported in favor of a new church.

A committee was selected to receive subscriptions and to determine what the general sentiment was on the question. The chairman of the meeting asked those willing to work on this committee to rise. The following arose: Anton Jarstad, Andrew Nelson, Olaf Olson, Martin Hansen, Dimar Larson, G. M. Ellingson, Edward Larsen, Adolph Anderson and O. C. Christenson. The meeting adjourned for a period of five weeks to await the report of this committee of nine.

On April 23, 1913, the adjourned meeting was called to order.

The committee of nine brought in a report which was not accepted. All questions relating to a new church were voted down. No further action was taken. The small attendance was evidently disheartening to those present.

The question of a new church was still a leading issue. Some of the members who had been present at previous meetings and had shown some interest in the improvement of conditions, now began to remain away, and because of the small number present, those in attendance might well have lost heart and refused, as others did, to have anything to do with the question. The committee of nine selected for the purpose of soliciting funds had found it a disagreeable task and were anxious to be excused from any further effort, hoping that perhaps in a year or two, more interest would develop. A motion to re-commit the work of solicitation was lost, and from the meager records at hand, it seems that any other move in the direction of a new church was voted down. The records do not show that this meeting was adjourned to any special time, but the next meeting was held on August 18, 1913.

This meeting was called for the purpose of considering an offer by the Ladies' Aid to contribute to a fund for a new parsonage. They had a sum of money and were anxious to do something constructive with it. They had made known that if the new church was not to be built, they desired to repair the parsonage. They proposed to raise the old building, construct a basement, and install a furnace.

The men felt that the immediate need was a new church, and that all resources should be conserved for that purpose, so a motion was passed by six votes for

and two against that the congregation declare themselves **not** in a position to build a basement for the parsonage at this time. The **pastor** remained with us for sixteen years, but never again asked for any great improvements in his living quarters. He always remained loyal to his people and his **whole** soul was given to the building of the new church, and the strengthening of the congregation. His efforts to build up a church spirit was supplemented by the assistance of Mrs. Bongsto, whose pleasing personality won for the cause many who otherwise would have remained on the outside.

Giving Vote to Women, Question of Changing Name of Congregation

A year had gone by since the resolution to give the ladies the ballot had been passed. This was the meeting at which it was to be ratified, but again it was delayed to await the action of the Synodical convention at Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the same question was pending there, and would possibly be decided that summer. The name "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" had been proposed the year previous and was now up for ratification. Twenty-four members were present at this meeting. Those holding the balance of power were not very anxious to make the change just then. Evidently some of the older Norwegian members who had promised money to help the new building project threatened to withhold their help if the word "Norwegian" was taken from the name; so it was decided to postpone the ratification until after the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation, which would be in the year 1917, four years hence. This would give a period of four years in which to gather the money promised. It was so decided by a vote of twenty-two to two.

Synodical Aid

The obligations to our Synod had never been very conscientiously fulfilled, and as soon as the contributing power had been somewhat strengthened, the pastor reminded the congregation of their moral duty, and a committee was appointed to canvass the members in behalf of the Missions, Charity and Christian schools.

Although the congregation's obligation to the Synod was a continuing one, their effort to comply had to await a motion to be carried each year before anything was done. In later years offerings were taken up, the various organizations contributed, and in that way a regular annual contribution was established.

For a time the duplex envelope system was used and proved very successful, but something had to be done to assure that the money gathered would be avail-

able when due. The final conclusion was the present system. This work has now been separated from that of the elected officers. A committee of five have this responsibility. Regularly, four times each year, a letter containing envelopes is mailed to each member, and, with their contribution, is returned at the altar offering the following Sunday. The first of these offerings is Easter Sunday, then Pentecost. In September the annual Mission festival is held, and the last one of the year is the Christmas offering.

Miss Clara Dysland, Missionary to Madagascar

At this point in the history there is special pride in recording that plans were perfected for a banquet in honor of Miss Clara Dysland, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dysland, who was to leave for missionary work in Madagascar that



MISS CLARA DYSLAND
Missionary to Madagascar

coming summer. A committee was also appointed consisting of members of each organization, to arrange for the celebration of the fiftieth jubilee, January 12, 1917.

The financial report for the year 1913 showed: Balance on hand from 1912, \$61.30; Sunday collections, \$98.64; subscriptions, \$639.50; carried over from 1912, \$11.25; mission offering, \$40.00; and received insurance on fire damage to

parsonage, \$2.40, a total of \$853.09. A look at the income for the year 1913, surely brings the conscience to feel that this was not a very large sum to spend for Christian work.

Rev. Bongsto's second annual report dated January 1, 1914, has a paragraph in reference to Miss Clara Dysland's departure for the Mission field, which is quoted as it appears in the Norwegian language: "Fra menighedens midte har et medlem modtaget kald til at gaa som missionær til Madagaskar. Derved vil vor menighed blive moder, ikke bare til de barn som i denne menighed fødes ved ord og sakramenter, men ved denne vor udsending, Miss Clara Dyslands virke vil hedningerne fødes til liv i Gud, og den menighed hvorfra hun udsendes vil komme til at staa i moderforhold til disse nyfødte kristenbarn derude. Maatte vi vise os at være en god og kjærlig moder for hende som skal gaa, og for dem der ved hendes virke bliver befæstede i sin kristentro, saavelsom for dem der maatte komme til livet i Gud. Næste sommer er det tanken at hun skal reise til Madagaskar. Det vil da blive vor pligt som menighed, og som moderkirke, at sige hende et moderligt farvel der altid vil lyse for hende paa hendes livsverk.

"Jeg hensætter derfor til menigheden, ved dette møde, at fatte bestemmelser der vil give os anledning til at afholde en passende afskedsfest i anledning af hendes udvandring som vor udsending til hedningerne."

The following is a translation of the above:

"From the midst of our congregation one of our members has received a call to enter missionary work in Madagascar. Our congregation thereby becomes the mother of a missionary, born to us through the Word of God and the Sacraments. This is furthermore emphasized by the fact that she leaves from our church. By Miss Clara Dysland's chosen work the heathen will be born again with life in God, and we thereby become their foster parents.

"May we then prove ourselves worthy and loyal to the trust imposed upon us, both to her who now leaves and to the new wards that her work will help to bring into the realms of God's kingdom.

"She is expected to leave next summer. It therefore becomes our duty as her congregation and her friends to prepare for her a farewell that will be a happy encouragement to her in her life's work. I hereby offer a resolution that a fitting farewell party be arranged by this congregation in honor of Miss Clara Dysland's leaving for the mission fields."

This report also had reference to the Sunday school having a membership of one hundred and fifty. He mentioned the Ladies' Aid, the Dorcas, the Little Helpers and the Young People's League. One hundred and one new members were taken in during this year, and two hundred and thirty-eight people attended the Lord's Supper.

Green Bay Congregation's Reply to Lessor's Letter of Separation—Lessor's Reply to Same

The year had passed after which the Lesser and Owego congregations had agreed to withdraw from the Green Bay call and to set themselves up independently. At this point is re-printed the letter from this congregation to Our Saviour's Lutheran congregation at Lesser, Shawano county, acknowledging the separation from them, and their reply. This remains in the Norwegian language.

Green Bay den 27de Juni, 1913

TIL VOR FRELSERS NORSK LUTHERSKE MENIGHET I SHAWANO COUNTY, WIS.

Kjære Brødre og Søstre i Herren:

Da de 43 aars samarbeide for Guds rikes fremme som har eksistert mellem eders og vor menighet disse mange aar vi har tilhørt et kald nu nærmer sig sin avslutning være det os tillat:

Først at uttale vor inderlige tak til Gud for alle dem der gjennom aarenes løp blev bragt i forening med Frelseren gjennom ord og sakramenter. Fremdeles ønsker vi at takke Gud for at han har git os naade til at bevare ordet og sakramentene rene og uforfalskede, og at han har git os tjenere og sjelesørgere der har været tro mot den lutherske bekjendelse, sit kald og, saa vidt vi kan dømme, mot sin Gud. For disse dyrebare gaver til os være Herren inderlig takket.

For det andet er det vor trang at faa si en hjertelig tak til Vor Frelzers Norsk Evangelisk Lutherske Menighet for den støtte den menighet har været for vore fælles prester de svundne aar.

Veien var lang, men prestene vore blev ikke trøtte og I gjorde visst eders til at deres mot ikke skulde svigte og deres hænder ikke synke. Trolig har I baaret byrdene sammen med os. Maatte Herren velsigne eder derfor

Fremdeles er det vor trang at uttale vort haap om Guds rike velsignelse over Vor Frelzers Norsk Lutherske menighet for fremtiden.

Naar nu utviklingen har ført det med sig at vi trenger en prest der præker hver Søndag i byen og derfor maa skilles fra eder, saa er det vort faste haap og bøn til Gud at dette maa bidrage til at fremme levende kristendom blandt menighetsfolket baade hos eder og os. Og kan dette bli resultatet saa er det jo værdier vi opnaar som ikke kan betales med penger.

Hjertelig tak da for samværet. Maa vi altid i fremtiden kunne møtes som sande søstre og brødre i Herren. Herren velsigne Vor Frelzers Norsk Lutherske Menighet i Shawano county, Wisconsin.

Paa Den Norsk Evangelisk Lutherske Menighets vegne:

P. E. BONGSTO, *Pastor*
ANDREW A. JOHNSON
ANDREW NELSON
PETER PAULSON
HARTWIG HANSEN

TIL GREEN BAY NORSK LUTHERSKE MENIGHET, GREEN BAY, WIS.

Kjære Brødre og Søstre i Herren:

Vi har mottat og læst eders vakre skrivelse av 27de juni hvori I uttaler tak og paaskjønnelse for et velsignelsesrikt 43 aars samarbeide for Guds rikes fremme. Vi vil være med og takke Gud for alle dem som i disse aar blev bragt i forening med Frelseren gjennom ord og sakramenter og som blev opholdt i troen indtil enden. Ogsaa vore hjerter er taknemmelige for at Gud i sin naade har git os tjenere og sjælesørgere der har virket med troskap i sit kald til sjæles frelse og den rene læres bevarelse. I takker for den støtte vi som menighet har været i de svundne aar. Da blir det nok vi som maa takke. Det var lang vei for presten at komme til os, og naar vi nu tænker os litt om, saa maa vi nok erkjende at vi paa mange maater kunde og burde ha gjort det lettere for vor fælles prest. Vi syntes nok at det saa mørkt ut for os da vi i sidste aar opsa kaldsforbindelsen. Vi hadde vanskelig for at øine utvei. Vi vil dog indrømme at I med god ret besluttet at ordne kaldet slik at I kunde ha gudstjeneste der. Guds rikes fremme paa stedet kræver det.

For os ser det ogsaa nu lysere ut. Gud der bøier hjertene som vandbækker har ogsaa formaadd at bøie vor vilje slik at vi har besluttet at prøve paa at holde prest paa stedet. Det har gaat over forventning saa langt. Det ser ut til at Gud vilde denne forandring. Maate det bidrage til sand levende kristendom blandt os! Saa vil vi tilslut ogsaa paa vor side takke for det gode lange samarbeide. Guds rike velsignelse hvile over Green Bay Norsk Evangelisk Lutherske menighet og dens prest. Og om vor organiske forbindelse nu er avsluttet, maatte aldrig det broderbaand og den gode forstaaelse, som har holdt os sammen, oppløses. Glem os ikke i eders bønner. Bed for os at arbeidet maa lykkes.

Paa Vor Frelser Norsk Lutherske menighets vegne:

NELS ERIKSON
K. G. OLSON
JOHN REITAN
PETER RUDE
THORVALD JOHNSON

New Church Building Under Consideration

At the annual meeting January 8, 1914, the desire for a more comfortable church was again brought up. The present building was old and built on a stone foundation without a basement or furnace. It was not a proper place to gather children for Sunday school, and for this reason many remained absent during the winter months, and in many cases attended Sunday school at other churches where conditions were more favorable to comfort and health.

A committee of three was appointed to investigate and to report at the next meeting to be held February 22, 1914, what in their opinion should be done with this matter. After the consideration of this report it was tabled until the next meeting, March 8, 1914.

The proposition of remodeling the old building was losing favor, and the sentiment for a new church building was gaining. A referendum ballot contain-

ing the two principal questions was mailed to the membership. "Are you in favor of a new building at a cost of about \$12,000, or are you in favor of rebuilding the old church at a cost of \$4,000, and what sum will you contribute to your favored project?" The ballots were accordingly mailed out with a stamped envelope for their return. The meeting then adjourned to March 29 to await the result of the ballots.

Of the one hundred and forty ballots sent out, eighty-seven were returned, twenty-two were blank, sixteen for remodeling, and forty-nine for a new church, with a subscription promise of \$5,015. It is quite interesting to note that less than one-half of the 140 to whom ballots had been sent responded, and gave the pledge as stated. A move was made to go forward with plans for a new building, and to write to Mr. Henry Dysland for his services as the architect. On July 19 Dysland was present and showed the proposed plans. No final decision was reached as to plans at this meeting, and a committee of three—M. A. Onstad, Peter Jorgensen and Henry Dysland—was appointed to inspect the Lutheran churches at Manitowoc and to report at the next meeting, July 22.

Mr. Dysland was finally instructed to proceed with the plans as outlined, subject to such changes as might be proposed by the trustees or the congregation. This was the last of the adjourned meetings that year. The summer of 1914 was spent in visiting members, securing subscriptions, and in general, building up a better church spirit.

The annual meeting of January 8, 1915 does not record any action concerning a new church building. A resolution of appreciation and thanks to the Ladies' Aid and Dorcas Society was adopted for their good work and financial assistance. The missions came in for their share of consideration, and it was planned to take up the usual mission offering that summer, and to have Professor Stolie present.

Because the auditing committee had failed to complete its work on the books, the meeting was adjourned to January 18, 1915. It was agreed to print the annual report to show all income and expenditures and the names and addresses of all members, whether contributors or otherwise. The annual report for 1914 was the first report printed, and this practice has been continued since, with the exception of the years from 1936 to 1940.

The summer of 1915 was a busy one, as many problems relating to the building of the new church had to be disposed of. The most important of these was the selection of the plans. A meeting held June 27 was for this purpose. Mr. Dysland presented the set of plans which was finally adopted. Another set of plans, not having the supporting pillars, was offered by another builder. The assembly was nearly divided in its choice. An informal ballot was taken and the

result was eight for, and nine opposed to Dysland's plan. After some further discussion the formal ballot was taken, and the result was eight for and seven opposed to Mr. Dysland's plan.

The majority did not think it wise to close so important a question with such a small number present, and with a vote so evenly divided, so they moved to reconsider the question and the meeting adjourned to July 21.

When this meeting was called, there was a decided change in the minds of those present. A vote was taken and the result was seventeen for and two opposed to Dysland's plan. By a motion this ballot was made unanimous. These plans called for a church of Gothic design.

Construction of New Church Building

The trustees were ordered to dispose of the old barn and a woodshed which had to be moved in order to clear the ground for building operations. Four additional men were selected to act in conjunction with the Board of Trustees to constitute the building committee, and as now made up, consisted of the five trustees: Anton Jarstad, Martin Onstad, Olaf Olson, Peter Jorgensen, G. M. Ellingson, Gabriel Jorgensen, Henry Dysland, Peter Paulson and Peter Stinson. Other minor details were taken care of at this time, and the meeting adjourned. The major problem was the removal of the old barn. There was no appropriation of money for this purpose, evidently because there was none in the treasury. Thus the trustees had to do the best they could, a policy which they had to follow for many years afterward.

One of the trustees who had recently joined the congregation suggested that volunteers be asked for, who would be willing to help tear down the old barn. It proved that this was not the best way to secure willing workmen. This trustee relates the following incident in support of this: "One evening he expected about fifteen men to come and help with the work. Lanterns were provided as they expected to continue work after dark. Of the fifteen, only seven men came, and the work continued, but the crew was getting smaller and smaller as the evening came on. Being quite industrious, he did not notice how fast his men were leaving, and when he finally looked about he discovered that he was alone. The job was about one-half complete, and to finish it, a farmer from Ashwaubenon was given all the lumber and ten dollars to clear it away."

On August 24, 1915, the contractors' competitive bids were opened. A motion was passed to let the job to the contractor for the sum of \$13,050. This bid did not include heating, wiring, plumbing or any of the minor details. The total cost of the building complete was to be approximately \$16,000. The old church

building had to be removed. An opportunity for its sale was not taken, and a few days later the workmen were busy dismantling the structure around which for so many years the members had been centered, and it is said that some of the older members wept as they saw the old building come to the ground.

Baptist Chapel Used As House of Worship During Construction of New Church

It was necessary to provide a place of worship until the new building should be completed. On the corner of Fifth Street and Maple Avenue, there was a small building which had been used by a Baptist congregation. It was vacant. Arrangements were made for its use until the completion of the new church. Rev. Bongsto did not fail, even in the face of the coming expense, to urge his congregation to do their duty to Samfundskassen. One hundred and twenty dollars was appropriated for this purpose.

It was hoped that the building operations would be started early enough in the fall so that the church would be ready for Easter. This hope was not realized. The work was started too late, and the building was not completed until the following year. There was not enough paid in to the building fund to start the work. This made it necessary for the pastor and three members of the building committee to solicit donations from non-members. The result of this was that the business men of the city donated more than one thousand dollars, and thereby helped to get the building started. The names and sums donated are in our records.

The general expenses of the church were increasing and an appeal was made for larger contributions. Records show that this was responded to very liberally.

Trustees Authorized to Pledge Congregation's Property in the Sum of \$8,000.00

On June 7, 1916, the trustees were authorized to pledge the congregation's property for the sum of \$8,000 to be used to pay the balance of the cost of the new church. This, however, was not the total debt at that time. There were, in addition to this bonded indebtedness, two notes of \$1,000 each which were to be paid before the first bond became due. The plan for the payment of this debt was to be as follows: The Ladies' Aid agreed to pay the interest and the trustees would take care of the payment of \$500 on the principal each year on July 1 at the McCartney National Bank. This plan required sixteen years to pay

the bonds, and was successfully carried out, until the summer of 1929 when a drive was conducted which paid the balance. This was three years before the end of the period of the original plan.

Laying Corner Stone of New Church, September 3, 1916

The new church was completed and there was great rejoicing in the removal of the services from the Baptist Chapel back to our own home. Everyone entered upon his duties as a church member, general harmony prevailed, and the following years were marked with prosperity.

The ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone was held on Sunday, September 3, 1916. Confirmation services were held in the forenoon, and in the afternoon the cornerstone ceremonies were held. It was considered unfortunate that no visiting pastors were present for the program, but the regular ceremony was conducted by the pastor, assisted by Professor Theo. Huggenvik. The pastor gave a brief history of the congregation and Prof. Huggenvik delivered the sermon. This service was well attended and the sermon was very impressive. Among other things Prof. Huggenvik said: "Christ and the confession of the Christian Church of her belief in Him as the Son of the living God are the foundation stones upon which the Christian Church rests." "The church is not built upon Peter but upon Jesus Christ and Peter's confession: 'Thou art the Son of the living God.'"

The pastor returned, to the cornerstone, the books and other articles that were preserved from the cornerstone of the old church, and the *Press-Gazette* and *Lutheraneren* were added. The stone was then sealed, and Mr. Gilbert Lier, as one of the oldest and faithful members, one who at all times could be counted upon to support any and all projects for the furtherance of God's cause, both spiritually and materially, as it met with the desire of the majority, placed the cornerstone and cemented it into the foundation to await its opening again by some generation not yet born. On May 12, 1917 the new name—"Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" was engraved on the cornerstone. The next day, May 13, was selected for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the congregation, and for the dedication ceremonies of the new church. There were present at these services eight visiting pastors. Rev. Theo. H. Dahl, the president of the Synod, delivered the sermon on the occasion. Other pastors taking part in the services were Rev. H. A. Okdale, Rev. C. T. Rogne, Rev. N. M. Minne, Rev. O. N. Jordheim, Rev. Olai Hill, Rev. O. K. Espeseth, Rev. Jacob Frohlin and Rev. C. S. Thompson.

The program in the afternoon was in commemoration of the founding of the congregation on January 6, 1867.

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942

PROGRAM

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Hymn | No. 78 |
| 2. Scripture Reading and Prayer | Rev. S. L. Thompson |
| 3. Hymn | No. 80 |
| 4. Jubilee Sermon | Rev. H. A. Okdale, Pres. of Scandinavian Academy |
| 5. Song | Choir |
| 6. History of Congregation | Prof. Theo. Huggenvik |
| 7. Offering | |
| 8. Song | Choir |
| 9. Prayer | Rev. Jacob Frohlin |
| 10. Hymn | No. 49 |

There were present at these services many people from the surrounding congregations.

The choir from St. John's Church directed by Prof. Jorgen Thompson assisted at both services.

The third service was conducted in the evening and formed the opening session of the circuit meetings, which were continued at St. John's Church the following day.

**Fiftieth Anniversary, June 8, 1917; Name of New Church
Ordered to be Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church;
Dedication of New Church, May 17, 1917**

The first annual meeting in the new church was held January 8, 1917. And this date being the fiftieth anniversary of the congregation, the ladies served refreshments in the church parlors. On April 25, 1917, a meeting was held for the purpose of taking a final vote on the new name which had been tabled from time to time since 1914. The result was that the name "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church," was selected. The dedication of the new church took place on May 17, 1917.

During the years 1917 and 1918 many of the young men served in the army and navy. The activities during this period were given over to the demands of the war. The ladies helped with the Red Cross work, and the men sold war bonds, and in other ways responded to the call of the country.

The congregation's business methods were now taking on a better form; a regular bookkeeping system was installed.

The years following the close of the war were not marked with anything more than the ordinary proceedings. The organizations resumed their regular places in the activities of the church. The Ladies' Aid gave two public suppers each

year—one in the fall and one in the spring. The Dorcas Society held regular meetings once a month, and each year gave the annual Hallowe'en party at which games were played and a lunch served, which often netted \$25 to \$30.

The good work of the organizations was evidenced by a large increase in the attendance at the parties and by the growth of the good spirit for church work. The records of the following five years up to 1925 disclose a depression in church finances. While it is true that wages had increased, the cost of living was increasing in an even greater ratio. The contributions to the general fund of the church remained the same while the people struggled to keep up with the cost of living. The pastor with his family of six felt these conditions more keenly than anyone, and it forced him to ask for an increase in salary. This question was brought out in the pastor's annual report for 1917 which was read at the meeting of January 8, 1918. No definite action was taken, and the annual meeting was adjourned to March 28. At this meeting the pastor tendered his resignation with the explanation that he hoped to secure a position where possibly the cost of living would be somewhat lower than it was in Green Bay, and that way to get along, even if he could not receive a larger salary. The resignation was not accepted, and they voted for an increase in his salary.

The pastor's annual report for the year 1918 reflected a spirit of good will and general satisfaction with all phases of the work. He mentioned therein two outstanding events of the past year—the dedication of the new church, and the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the congregation. He spoke of these events as the greatest in our history. He mentioned the system and efficiency in the conduct of our financial affairs made possible by the introduction of the new system.

He commented on the great amount of labor donated by Mr. M. A. Onstad and Mr. Thurman Stinson in making the needed repairs at a time when there was no money to pay for it. He mentioned that Mrs. Rachel Lier had spent many an hour cleaning the church and that this was done in the spirit of true Christian fellowship.

The final report of the building committee was accepted and the committee was discharged with a vote of thanks.

Since 1915 this committee had been in continuous service and undoubtedly were now well pleased to have reached the point where they could be formally excused as a building committee. The responsibility, for the obligations of the church again rested with the Board of Trustees, many of whom had served through the building period as members of this committee. They were, as they had been before, confronted with the ever troublesome problem of what should be done with those who were delinquent in their payment of sums promised

to the new church fund. One solution advanced was: "We can get along without that money; let us mark it off the books and forget it." The other side said, "It is a moral as well as a legal duty. We as a church cannot be guilty of being neglectful in applying the law we are organized to teach."

English Language to be Used Every Sunday

The principal business of the annual meeting of January 9, 1921, was the ratification of the amendment to the constitution giving the ladies the ballot. The need for more English services was becoming more pronounced, and a motion was carried that there should be English services all Sundays except the first one of each month, which was to be devoted to Norwegian. Little by little the Norwegian language was giving way to the demand of the time. While many were glad that advances were being made in the Americanization of the congregation, there were also strains of sadness at the passing of the language that had been the parents' and in which they had learned the beautiful Bible stories in their childhood.

The pastor's salary was again raised at this meeting without any solicitation on his part. Evidently the congregation was getting over the post-war period and prosperity was again being manifest.

Translation of the Constitution to English

It was ordered to have the constitution translated from the Norwegian to the English language. Mr. Olaf Olson was chosen to take charge of this. The translation was made and copies were printed. First copies in both languages are preserved in the archives of the church.

Seven years had passed since Miss Clara Dysland had gone into missionary work in Madagascar and the pastor announced that she would soon return on her first furlough, and that we should have a special service and a mission offering in her honor.

On January 8, 1922, the number of trustees was increased from 5 to 9 members. Two ladies were chosen to make up the required number. As an experiment this was not a success. One of the ladies declined while the other served her time. There have been no ladies on the board since then.

The activities of the congregation up to this time had been confined almost exclusively to the home circle. While the pastor had always urged the congregation to reach out and bring in talent from the schools and colleges, it was not done, perhaps because of a lack of confidence in the ability to do so.

The minutes of January 8, 1923, state that the pastor recommended that the net proceeds of the St. Olaf concert be given to the Ladies' Aid. Whether this was from the choir or from the band, the minutes do not state. The band concert was given in the Orpheum Theater and the choir concert in the Columbus Community Club. Both these concerts were well attended and each one was a decided success. Financially they netted a neat sum, and built up the prestige of the church. One of the leading musical organizations in the country had been brought to the city.

It had been the custom up to this time to take up an offering for the organist on Confirmation day. Now the contributing strength had grown to the extent that they were able to pay a salary for these services, and the offering was dispensed with. It was finally decided to leave the matter with the deacons who recommended that the offerings be continued and that the proceeds should go to missions.

New Pipe Organ and Interior Decorations

In 1925 it was decided to purchase a new pipe organ. Mr. John Lier and Mr. Anton Larsen, who were members of the choir at this time, together with Mr. Thurman Stinson, were selected as the committee for this purpose. On March 18, the committee reported favorably. Mr. John Lier was selected as chairman and with five additional members made up the committee. Their duty was to canvass the congregation for the necessary funds, and if twenty-five per cent of the total cost were obtained, they should go forward with the project. The meeting was then adjourned to a later date at which time all reports were favorably received and the organ was purchased.

Seven years had passed since the church was built. The interior had not been decorated, due, apparently, to lack of funds for this purpose. Mrs. Peter Hall, who was then the treasurer of the Ladies' Aid, asked the congregation for permission to decorate the church interior. This was granted, and at an expense of about \$1,000 the church received its first decoration, contracted and paid for by the Ladies' Aid. The committee in charge of this work was Mrs. Peter Hall and Mrs. Edward Larsen. Their work was accepted as well done. Mrs. Hall did not live long to enjoy the work she was so delighted to have done. She died August 17, 1927, and is buried in Fort Howard Cemetery. For several years she had been the leading spirit of the Ladies' Aid and a loyal friend to all. The pastor was on his vacation in South Dakota at the time he received this sad news. He returned at once to pay his last respects and officiate at the funeral services of one who so loyally had helped him in the work of the church.

All Previous Records Almost Wiped Out by Fire

On December 2, 1926, there occurred an event which nearly deprived us of the possibility of writing this history. Mr. M. A. Onstad had for many years been our secretary, and as such had charge of the records from which this history is written. Being in the grocery business and always a very busy man, he would sometimes work on his church books during business hours. This day he left the book on his desk in the store forgetting to place it in the safe where he usually kept it. That night the store caught fire and some parts of the minutes were destroyed. Through much labor on his part he has succeeded in re-writing a complete record from the charred remnants of the old book, and from notes which he had left at home. With the exception of the original record of the year 1926, we have the charred book, also the re-written book from 1911 to 1925 in the archives of the church.

For several years past it had been very difficult to secure men who would serve as officers, but now the younger men were coming into line with keen interest and new ideas, which did much to bring greater stimulus to the work. Following are the new church officers as shown by the records:

Trustees for three years: John G. Lier, Carl Jacobson, Stanley Ramsett.

Deacons for two years: Edward Larsen and Sigward L. Olson.

Secretary: Mr. Stanley Ramsett.

Pastor's assistant: Mr. Andrew Nelson.

Delegates to the annual meeting: Anton Jarstad and Thurman Stinson.

Auditing committee: G. M. Ellingson and T. A. Stinson.

To build up the contributing strength of the members had been, for years, the aim of the board. This was a comparatively slow process, but each year had given encouragement by a steady upward trend both in the number of contributors and in the sum of each one's contribution. A resolution was now passed that all confirmed members should be asked to contribute, even if only a nominal sum. The objective was to teach the younger generation their duty toward their church. The result was an increased number of contributors and a decidedly better financial report for the following year. This move marked the passing of the old custom of the family being a contributing unit. A regular budget for the coming year was adopted and used as a basis for the coming year's contributions.

On Wednesday evening, March 23, 1927, a special meeting was held for the purpose of considering the possibility of erecting a new parsonage. There had been no move in this direction since Rev. Bongsto had asked for a better home in the year of 1914. Thirteen years had passed since then. The pastor had kept

himself and family as comfortable as possible in the old home. Rev. T. Dahl, the president of our church, and many other of our church officers, had shared the hospitality of the old home, but now its usefulness as a residence had passed. It was decided that any extensive repairs would mean a useless expenditure of money. The report stated further that possibly it could be used for another two years at the most. This meeting was concluded by passing the following resolution: "Resolved, that the question of a new parsonage be referred to the Board of Trustees with the expectation that they proceed in such a manner that their action will ultimately result in a new parsonage." This motion was carried by nineteen for and six against. The meeting adjourned.

The pastor's report for 1928 included the resignation of Mr. Andrew Nelson who had been klokker and assistant to the pastor for more than twenty-five years. The resignation was accepted, and the congregation gave him a rising vote of thanks for his long and faithful service.

Rev. P. E. Bongsto's resignation was then formally read from the deacon's report and is here quoted in full.

The constitution had been under revision for the past year and was to come up for ratification. The meeting was adjourned to March 5, at which time the revision report as given by Mr. Olaf Olson was adopted.

Resignation of Rev. P. E. Bongsto Accepted

Green Bay, Wisconsin, January 4, 1928

Whereas, Rev. P. E. Bongsto, by reason, has seen fit to resign his duties as pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and has been called to another field to continue his faithful work as a servant of the Lord, and Whereas, in consideration thereof the Board of Deacons, in meeting assembled January 4, 1928, respect his motive for resignation, Therefore be it resolved that the members of the congregation accept his resignation as pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Green Bay, Wisconsin, to take effect May 1, 1928.

(Signed)

Board of Deacons:

SIGWART L. OLSON
HARTWIG HANSON

EDWARD L. LARSEN
ANTON LARSEN.

The resignation was formally accepted and arrangements were made for the proper ceremonies in bidding farewell to the present pastor and for the calling of the new one.

The following resolutions were prepared by the Board of Deacons and adopted at this meeting.

January 8, 1928

Resolved, That we, the Board of Deacons, do hereby express in behalf of this congregation our deepest feeling of regret caused by the resignation of our beloved pastor, Rev. P. E. Bongsto. We are utterly unable to voice as we should our appreciation and gratitude for the rich blessings we have received through his untiring efforts and willing services as pastor of the congregation. We have realized during the sixteen years that the Lord has seen fit to have him work among us, two great needs—a new church and a new pipe organ, as well as continual growth and prosperity in this congregation. His motives have always been for the good of the congregation and the furtherance of God's kingdom.

Be It Further Resolved, That to Mrs. Bongsto we wish to express our deepest regret in the loss of one whose motive has always been "doing for others." Her untiring efforts in well-doing and her sacrifices for the good of the congregation will always be remembered by all who have come in contact with her.

Therefore Be It Resolved, That we hereby express to Rev. Bongsto and family our sincere thanks for their untiring labors in behalf of this congregation. May the grace of God rest richly upon them in their new field. That is the prayer of this congregation.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, properly signed, be presented to Rev. Bongsto.

(Signed)

SIGWART L. OLSON
ANTON LARSEN
HARTWIG HANSEN
EDWARD LARSEN.

Calling Rev. T. S. Hanson, Fifth Pastor of Congregation

A joint calling committee consisting of representatives from the three congregations in the call was appointed. This committee held its meeting February 6, 1928. There was a full representation from each congregation—thirteen from Trinity, four from St. John's, and five from Zion's. Wilmer Christopherson from St. John's was chosen as chairman, and Stanley Ramsett of Trinity was selected as secretary for the meeting.

A letter from Rev. J. M. Green was read which stated that he accepted the invitation to come to address this charge on a drive for funds, which was to be put on by the church at large in the near future.

Rev. O. J. H. Preus had previously provided the deacons with a list of pastors to whom they might send the call. The chairman and secretary were instructed to send letters of invitation to five pastors to visit the congregation at such times

as appointments could be made. Rev. T. S. Hanson from Warwick, North Dakota, and Rev. Tarkelson of New Era, Michigan, were the only two responding.

Rev. Tarkelson informed the congregation that he was not aware of the method we had chosen to select the new pastor. He stated he did not approve of it. The method of selecting a pastor by trial sermon was not approved by all the pastors and undoubtedly was the cause why so many declined the invitation. In this case the constitution provided the method and there was no other choice.

On March 18 a special meeting was called for the purpose of receiving the report and for fixing the pastor's salary.

The committee proposed that the salary for the new pastor be \$1,905 and three offerings. This was arrived at as follows: \$1,200 by Trinity; \$305 by Zion and \$400 by St. John's. This was carried.

At the adjourned meeting of March 26, Rev. T. S. Hanson of Warwick, North Dakota, was selected as the fifth regular pastor. Rev. Hanson did not arrive here until July. In the meantime the congregation was busy arranging the formal farewell party for Rev. Bongsto and in preparing the parsonage for the new pastor.

Congregation's Farewell to Rev. P. E. Bongsto and Family

April 29 was the evening set for the formal farewell party and a fitting program was prepared. Mr. Olaf Olson, chairman of the Board of Trustees, was master of ceremonies. The congregation was well represented, all seating room was taken up, about three hundred people were present, many coming from Ashwaubenon and Glenmore. Anton Larsen spoke of the official duties of the church as conducted for the past thirty years by Mr. Andrew Nelson who had resigned in January. A purse was presented to Rev. and Mrs. Bongsto by the Ladies' Aid society, and a group of ladies presented Mrs. Bongsto with a cameo brooch.

Miss Ellen Ellison in behalf of the Dorcas society presented Miss Pauline Bongsto with a ring. Grace Olson presented the pastor with a traveling bag on behalf of the Junior Young People's society. Musical numbers were given. A vocal solo was rendered by Miss Henrietta Anderson. Addresses were delivered by Anton Jarstad for Trinity Lutheran Church, and by Mr. Wilmer Christopherson for St. John's. Mr. Christopherson in a few well chosen words splendidly voiced the feeling of their people at the severing of official connections with Rev. Bongsto who for so many years had been their spiritual guide and inspiration. Mr. Jarstad's address is an allegorical review of Rev. Bongsto's services during his time here and is herewith reproduced in full.

Farewell Address

By ANTON JARSTAD

April 29, 1928

REV. AND MRS. BONGSTO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

This occasion is unusual. I bade Rev. and Mrs. Bongsto "Welcome" at their reception at Ansgar Hall sixteen years ago and now I am to speak our official "Farewell."

No words of mine can add anything to the splendid tribute you show them by your presence here this evening. This gathering should not take on an atmosphere of sadness or depression, but one of rejoicing, because as Christian people we know that all things are shaped by the Almighty's hand, and this is only one small link in the chain of God's great plan.

It is a matter of rejoicing when we think of all the blessings that have come to us during the sixteen years they have been with us.

When we think of what we were when they came and what we are now when they leave; how we have grown from a small number to a large, strong, united congregation which is today doing a decided part in the uplift of the people of our city. We can rejoice when we realize that we are housed in a beautiful new church building of which we are justly proud. We rejoice that all our organizations are strong and working together for a common end. This and a great deal more will always remain with us an undying monument to their unselfish devotion to duty.

While our relations with the pastor during these years have been most cordial and friendly, yet we are sorry to admit that at times we differed with him as to methods of procedure, but when we think of all the good things that have come to us we will join with him in this sincere and humble acknowledgment—that in true Christian fellowship there can be nothing but friendship.

He has lived with us many years; he has learned to know us well; he has taken part in our social functions, and been a guest in our homes; he has rejoiced at our successes and sympathized with us in our sorrows. There are many here this evening over whose heads his hands of blessing have been raised in baptism and confirmation, and others whose pangs of sorrow have been softened by his words of trust and comfort as they stood beside the grave of some departed father or mother.

It has ever been his ambition to create a better understanding among us; to strengthen our friendship, and to secure us against internal strife. While his influence lasts there can be only friendly relations among us. Unlucky incidents may have occurred; mistakes may have happened on the one side or the other, and sharp words may have been spoken by unguarded tongue. But these things

all pass away—they do not touch the heart of a great people. They float for a while on the surface and in the wind they are soon blown away and forgotten.

He has labored among us, not for material things, but for an ideal. That ideal has been achieved and is now being transmitted to our keeping. If his success should be measured by what we have done for him we would be sending him away empty-handed. His success is not measured by what he takes away; it is measured by what he leaves behind. It is measured by what he has accomplished to make this world a better place to live in, and that alone is his true measure of success.

We have all been with him on this sixteen year journey, and tonight we have come to the Y in the road; we are to continue and he is to take another direction. We are weary, and as the wayfarers of old, we recline by the roadside and fall into a deep slumber. In a vision we see the road over which we have traveled. We see its long and narrow pathway; we see its curves and turns; we see the hills so hard to climb; we see the crags and thorns; and the deep abyss into which we might have fallen. Yet all along the roadside are unplucked flowers sweet with the fragrance of other days, and now giving comfort to the weary wanderers as they recline by the roadside. And here together we see the truth that all hardships have their comforts, and the darkest cloud its silver lining.

As we stand here about to part, the gilded fairy appears and a voice as from the deep, sounds out "Your one wish shall be granted," and this is our wish. "That just once more we might walk the humble surroundings as they were when we entered upon this journey sixteen years ago; that we might lift each other's burdens, and share once more the troubles and hopes of other days; that we might feel the old sympathies touch the shoulders of departed friends; that we might be warmed by old smiles, and moved by the tears of fellow travelers. Just once more let us walk the old streets and hear again the greeting of true friends.

"We are about to part and another sound is heard. It is as the silvery voices of little children prattling as of old, and we see passing before our gaze in a grand panorama all the incidents of the past. We see the activities of all these years. We see sixteen confirmation classes passing out into the world with his admonition and his blessing, and he sees the church council, the deacons and trustees with whom he met so often to help them solve the problems that gave them trouble. He sees the Dorcas society and the Ladies' Aid with whom he loved to meet; he sees the Brotherhood and the Luther League; he sees the Senior choir and the Junior choir; he sees the Little Helpers and the Sunday school as they assembled Sunday after Sunday in his presence for sixteen years. He sees the wonder of their eyes and the radiance of their smile, and all the pleasant things of the past greet him, and like anthems of the past ring through the chambers

of his heart. Then out of the dark, a warm hand of friendship gently presses his own in understanding and trust, then all these voices, as a great chorus, ring out from the corners and crevices of the past journey. 'We are the riches you have sought; we are the fame and the pleasure; we are but little things but you loved us and now we abide with you forever and make you glad.' And he looks upon his journey into new fields of continued labor as it winds its way along the banks of the River of Peace.

"Farewell is a word lightly uttered and easily forgotten. But when it marks the completion of a Chapter in Life, when it marks the severance of ties many and cherished; when it marks the parting of many friends at once, it sticks somewhat in the throat. It becomes indeed the word that makes us linger. But fortunate are we, as a people, who now bid farewell to those who leave their hearts behind. We bid you farewell and God will say the rest."

Rev. Bongsto left the following day for Ishpeming, where he began work in a congregation that fifty years before had been served by Rev. T. H. Dahl who was the second regular pastor of the congregation here.



OLD CHURCH

As it appeared after being moved from Broadway to corner of Arndt and Chestnut, 1896

Greetings to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Green Bay, Wisconsin

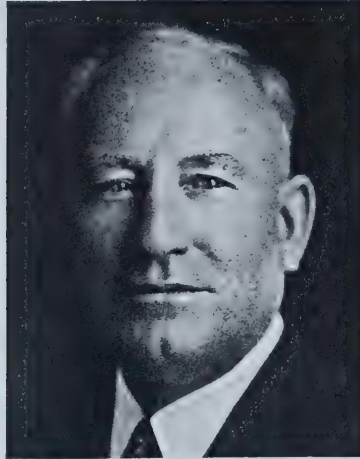
"Grace and peace be unto you!"

We wish to extend to every member and friend of Trinity Lutheran Church of Green Bay our heartiest and most sincere greetings upon this its seventy-fifth anniversary year. We do not greet you because you have existed so many years. There is no virtue in consuming time, if that be all. We congratulate this congregation because we believe that you have invested your time and talents well. Since the time of its organization, January 6, 1867, Trinity Church has remained in the service of her Master, carrying out His program of salvation from year to year. Children have here been born again in holy baptism; souls have been raised in the kingdom of God; men and women have here found peace with God, that peace which the world cannot give; believers have been fed by the pure word of God in sermon and sacrament; young people have pledged loyalty to God and to one another before your altar and God has opened up the fountains of heaven unto them to fill their lives with the true riches, which have made them strong and unconquerable; and here the aged, with faltering step, have come for light and guidance when the world had nothing to give, to keep the lamp of faith burning in their hearts and to supply the oil of the spirit to their souls, lest their lamps be extinguished while "waiting for their Lord." For seventy-five years Trinity Church has been an oasis in life's desert to thousands of pilgrims who have passed this way. Never were the pilgrims sent away empty. Whether they came from the forests or the fjords of their mother land or from the broad expanses of America, they were always supplied with their spiritual needs. No one went away spiritually hungry or thirsty, naked, sick, or in prison. The satisfying, the healing, and the liberating powers of Christ were always available in word and sacrament. And that is, briefly stated, why we are so happy to congratulate Trinity upon its anniversary year. "Well done thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things." Trinity church will, by the grace of God, do even greater things in the years to come. Men must do the smaller things first before God can use them to do the greater. Surely he will now permit us to do greater things to His glory after so many years experience as a Christian congregation in His service.

T. S. HANSON.

January 6, 1942

Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.



REV. T. S. HANSON

THOMAS S. HANSON, pastor of Trinity, St. John's, and Zion Lutheran churches, was born at Menno, in Hutchinson county, South Dakota. He received his spiritual training in Salem Lutheran Church at that place, and was educated in the public schools. From 1899-1900 he attended Augustana College at Canton, South Dakota. He then took state teacher's examination and taught public school in his home county, 1900-1901, after which time he entered St. Olaf Academy, Northfield, Minnesota, and graduated in the spring of 1905. Again he passed the state examinations for a higher certificate and became a teacher in Hutchinson county, 1905-1906. In the fall of 1906 he entered St. Olaf College and took up a classical course, leading to an A.B. degree and was graduated in June, 1910. In 1910-1911 he taught at Luther College, Racine, Wisconsin, and during the years 1911-1913, at Reliance, South Dakota. He then decided to answer the call to the ministry of the church and entered the United Church Seminary of the former United Lutheran Church of America and completed the work there in the spring of 1916. He was ordained to the holy office at Fargo, North Dakota, that year, on the 18th day of June, by the Rt. Rev. T. H. Dahl, president of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and also a former pastor of the Green Bay charge.

During his ministry, following charges have been served by the Rev. T. S. Hanson: Page, North Dakota and affiliated churches, 1916-1919, where he organized the work; Warwick, North Dakota, 1919-1928, six congregations in the charge at following locations: McVille, Pekin, Tolna, Hamar, Hillsdale, and Warwick. Rev. Hanson became pastor in the Green Bay charge July 1, 1928, and has served here since that time. Two congregations, St. John's, Ashwaubenton, and Zion of Glenmore, together with Trinity of Green Bay constitute this charge.

On the 18th day of October, 1917, the Rev. Hanson married Ida K. H. Schanche, daughter of Herman and Oline Schanche, Lesterville, Yankton county, South Dakota. She has been a good and loyal helper in the work of the ministry.

Installation of Rev. T. S. Hanson and Reception

INSTALLATION services for Rev. Thomas S. Hanson were not held until Sunday, July 1, 1928. Rev. D. G. Ristad of Manitowoc, then president of Eastern District, officiated as installation officer.

Formal reception and banquet for Rev. T. S. Hanson and family was held in the parlors of the church September 11, 1928, at which time the congregation gathered around the banquet tables prepared by the Ladies' Aid for the occasion.

The congregation's welcome and greetings were given by Olaf Olsen in the following words:

"In extending the official welcome and greetings of Trinity Lutheran Church to you, our new pastor, I do so as the representative of a congregation that has made firm and lasting bonds of love and regard with every pastor that has served it during its sixty-one years of history as a unit.

"That we have taken our spiritual advisers seriously and formed a deep and lasting affection for them, is evidenced by the fact that in sixty-one years we have had only four clergymen as regularly assigned pastors to Trinity Lutheran Church.

"Rev. Peter E. Bongsto, who has left us recently, served in Green Bay for sixteen years. Rev. Adolph Peterson who preceded him served in our church for over thirty years. The other two who preceded them had varying terms totaling fifteen years.

"We are proud of these records of good leadership and just as proud of the records made by our congregation, which has adapted itself to new leadership, when change was necessary and supported that leadership, with unvarying regard for long terms of years.

"In coming to us from your former charge in South Dakota, we appreciate that you have made a very material change and we trust that you will find that the change has been for the better.

"It has often been said that city congregations are not as closely knit or as friendly and congenial as are congregations in communities that are essentially rural. We believe that you will find the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church an exception to this belief.

"Green Bay is not a large city, neither is it a small city. It is not a bad city, neither is it a city of exceptional goodness. It is just an average city such as you may find in all portions of the United States. The people who reside in it are the same kind of people you will find in the average city of the United States.

"It is a city that has been good to us and we love it. Our homes are here and our affections are here. It has its hallowed spots for us and will have its hallowed spots for you, after you have been with us a while.

"Trinity Lutheran Church has played an important part in the church life of this city. If it had not served well, it would not have survived the tribulations of sixty-one years.

"... And sixty-one years represents the life of several generations. Not a long period for Green Bay which will soon celebrate the 300th year of its first location by white people, but a long period for the average mid-west community.

"We have traditions in this church of ours that are dear to us. These traditions are nothing if they do not represent close affection for one another and close affections for those who serve us.

"We hope that you, in the few short weeks you have been with us, have felt some of this affection, that we can compensate for some of the things you have left behind and that we have filled some of the void brought about by the breaking of old ties and old friendships.

"And so in offering this welcome and greeting, we give you not just a mere collection of phrases, but a tenure and a promise.

"We tender to you our hearty cooperation and our expression of good will. We promise that we will carry on with you, the work of this church, that we will work with you as our leader and spiritual adviser and that you will not find us wanting when you turn to us for support.

"Rev. Hanson, we trust that your connection with Trinity Lutheran Church will not merely be a long and lasting one, but that it will bring to you the pleasure of serving those whom you regard highly and love sincerely—that we

and you will mutually profit in the good that we may accomplish in our future associations."

May God bless you and your family;

May the word that is spoken alleviate the sorrows of those who seek repentance through God;

May He also bless this congregation under your leadership, as He has in the years that have passed.

New Parsonage Under Consideration

Since the special meeting on March 23, 1927, the Board of Trustees had under advisement the proposition of erecting a new parsonage. Two years had passed during which time there had been a change of pastors, and a somewhat unsettled state of mind within the congregation prevailed. This apparently caused the delay in bringing this matter before a meeting. The trustees, however, had considered the subject among themselves and on March 27, 1929, they called a special meeting for the purpose of considering the advisability of purchasing additional real estate upon which to build the new parsonage. Their conclusions as set forth in their recommendations disclosed the following facts which should then have been the determining factors upon which the decision of the congregation should have been based. First, that the duty of a congregation was to keep in mind the best interests of coming generations. Second, that there were only two Lutheran churches on the West Side. Third, that the congregation was growing and soon would need room for a larger church or a fellowship hall. Fourth, that it would be a mistake to build a parsonage on the present site as it would take up the room needed for future expansion. Those in sympathy with the board's conclusions were unable to prevail upon the others, and when the motion to purchase additional real estate was up for discussion, it received but little support and was lost by a vote of thirty-four against and four in favor. The reports and recommendations of the board are well recorded in the minutes.

This meeting was adjourned until March 27 at which time the board would again propose other possibilities for additional real estate. This meeting left the matter as unsettled as before and was again adjourned until June 3, 1929.

The report of the finance committee showed the total indebtedness of the congregation to be between three and four thousand dollars. It was recommended that a general drive be started for the purpose of paying this entire debt.

When the proposition for the purchase of additional real estate again came up, it received four votes and was lost. Only twelve years have passed since then and the need of space on which to build is becoming yearly more apparent.

Drive to Close All Indebtedness

The recommendation of the finance committee was well received. A committee for a drive to pay the debts was created and started work in September. This was a decided success. The people responded wonderfully well. The entire debt was over-subscribed and a balance of more than \$200 was left for the general fund. The report of this drive was printed in a neat booklet of which each member received a copy.

At the meeting of January 8, 1930, only formal reports of the various organizations were received. A motion was carried ordering that the printed report of the Debt Drive be kept with the historical records of the church and that a place for their safe keeping should be provided. This move is significant in that it reveals a desire of the present generation to preserve something of the present for those who are to be here when we are gone.

The proposition of building a new parsonage came up, and much time was given to a discussion of the various problems entering into such an undertaking.

The board had at a previous meeting been authorized to proceed in such a manner as would ultimately result in a new parsonage, and by virtue of this authority, had permission to take the necessary steps to reach the desired end. The only restrictions were those imposed by the constitution, such as giving proper notice to all members when disposal of property was contemplated, when expenditures were to be made, and when the congregation's credit was to be pledged.

A month passed before another meeting was called. Uncertainty prevailed as to what would be done since the previous meeting had adjourned without any orders for the future. In the meantime some of the ladies who were not satisfied with the plans as proposed by the architects, now took the pastor and wife out on tours of inspection to see new residences at more moderate prices. This resulted in another meeting which was called for April 15.

A new building committee consisting of James S. Larson, Harry G. Anderson and Rev. T. S. Hanson from the congregation, and Miss Mollie Paulson and Mrs. S. L. Olson from the Ladies' Aid was elected.

New Parsonage Building

A finance committee was also elected to outline a financial plan which would cover the proposed expenditure and to submit it for the approval of the congregation at the next meeting. The new building committee entered upon its duties by securing several different plans and specifications, from which the

congregation would select one, the cost was not to exceed \$8,000. The finance committee reported that St. John's congregation promised to contribute the sum of \$500 before November 1 on condition that in the event this congregation should at any time refuse St. John's Church the services of the pastor, said sum of money should be refunded to them. This condition was agreed to and their contribution was accepted. The Ladies' Aid had previously promised to make an initial payment of \$1,000 and \$600 each year thereafter until the debt should be paid.



PRESENT PARSONAGE
Erected in 1930

The report of the finance committee showed a list of two hundred and thirty contributing members, of which one hundred and twenty-four had paid \$10 or more to the general contribution for the year 1929.

The purpose set forth in the call for the special meeting held May 21, 1930, was to formally comply with the constitution in its requirement that a special meeting can only consider such questions as have been expressly stated in the call and of which all the people have been duly given ten days' notice. To comply herewith, it was moved and carried to proceed to build a new parsonage during the summer of 1930. The trustees were given authority to dispose of the

buildings on the site of the proposed new parsonage. It was ordered to advertise the old building for sale for whatever price might be realized, and if this should not succeed, then to sell the house for whatever could be obtained.

The advertisement brought no response. The result was that the purchaser razed the building and took it away. This was the final disposition of the parsonage that was built during the first years of Rev. Adolph Peterson's pastorate, and which had been the home of our ministers for a period of forty-six years.

In order to vacate the premises during the building period, the pastor and family moved to Ashwaubenon for the summer. Here they occupied a residence which was rented and put into condition by the congregation.

A meeting for the purpose of hearing the various bids and to award the contracts was held May 28. There were five contractors bidding on the general construction. Mr. Hans Christensen was given the contract for the sum of \$6,200. There were three bidders on the plumbing and heating. This work was awarded to Anderson and Thomas for the sum of \$1,492. The work of electrical wiring was left with the committee.

The building committee was provided with an additional appropriation of \$500 for such extras as might come up. The finance committee sent out a letter of solicitation. Only a few responded. This letter brought in less than \$300, but this sum, together with that received from the other two congregations, and that which had been pledged by the Ladies' Aid, the Dorcas, and the Brotherhood, reduced the indebtedness to \$5,000. This was proposed to be paid off at the rate of \$1,000 per year. Rev. Hanson, with his family, spent part of his vacation at Ephraim, Wisconsin, and returned to his work here in the latter part of August. The parsonage was to be completed the latter part of October, and the occasion must necessarily be observed with proper ceremonies.

Burning of the Mortgage

There was also another celebration which had been provided for previously, and was awaiting recognition. This was the "burning" of the mortgage on the new church, which had been paid the year before. A number of committees had been appointed to carry this out, but for some reason had failed to act. It was suggested that since the two occasions could be observed together, a special effort should be made to make this an event long to be remembered.

New committees consisting of church officers and the Ladies' Aid were in charge, and set about to carry this out. They proposed that the two programs be merged and be given on November 12. Following is the program as rendered:

PROGRAM OF BURNING THE MORTGAGE

November 12, 1930

held at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in the evening, at
which time we had the pleasure of burning the mortgage on the
church property, with all bills paid and a balance in the treasury

OLAF OLSEN, Chairman

1. Organ Prelude
2. Hymn No. 270 by the Congregation
3. Prayer Rev. T. S. Hanson
4. Historical by Chairman
5. Vocal Miss Henrietta Anderson
6. Rev. P. E. Bongsto: His Efforts While Pastor of the Congregation
7. Chairman On Subordinate Societies
8. Male Quartet
9. Address Rev. Hanson
10. Chairman On Old Members and Treasurers
11. Lord's Prayer by Organist Congregation in Silence
Dedicated to Sick and Departed Members
12. Burning of the Mortgage
Congregation Standing
Singing the Doxology
13. Remarks on the New Parsonage and Banquet

On the Platform

Present Board of Deacons and Trustees

Deacons and Trustees of 1913-1916

Trustees: Anton Jarstad, John Didrickson, G. M. Ellingson, P. W. Jorgensen, Olaf Olsen

Deacons: Anton Larsen, Peter Paulson, Henry Dysland, Andrew Nelson

Secretary: M. A. Onstad

Rev. and Mrs. P. E. Bongsto had received the official invitation of the congregation, and were present.

It was a very impressive service and well attended. During the program all the present officers, and other past officers of the boards and committees in charge at the time of the building were seated in the chancel. After some very fitting remarks by Olaf Olsen, the chairman of the trustees, the treasurer, M. A. Onstad, was called on to produce, for destruction, the document which had served its purpose. The church was darkened and the match applied by Anton Jarstad who had been the chairman of the building committee during the time of the erection of the new church; and thus ended a mortgage which it is said was harder to put on than it was to take off.

Rev. Bongsto was asked for a few remarks and among his many pleasant words he said: "The greatest satisfaction which comes to anyone from work in God's

vineyard is that it is recorded with the Most High and beyond the power of mortal man to erase."

Invitations had been issued to the Glenmore and Ashwaubenon congregations to attend, and many from there were present.

After the evening's program, the building committee invited all present to visit the new parsonage. After this, refreshments were served in the parlors. A feeling of harmony and good friendship prevailed.

Changing the Hours of Services, Submitted by Board of Deacons

The business at the annual meeting of 1931 was the adoption of the following recommendation brought in by the Board of Deacons: "We, the Board of Deacons, recommend: That the hour for English services be 10:30 Sunday mornings, beginning the first Sunday in March, 1931; That those wishing to continue Norwegian services shall be given the opportunity to choose one of the following hours: 7:45 to 9:00 a. m. or 7:45 to 9:00 p. m. and that the choice of the time of Norwegian services be decided at services Sunday, February 1."

This was formally adopted and placed under the head of new business for further discussion. Ballots: 25 yes; 6 no; 2 blank.

The dealing with any part of the language question had always been a very delicate undertaking. Many a deacon's report had been received with disappointment because it took no stand to further extend the English services, but this year the congregation had been very fortunate in placing on the board two new members who evidently were willing, if need be, to sacrifice friendship for the good of the church. The year before a resolution was adopted making it obligatory to hold all business meetings of the elective boards in the church buildings. It had been, for a time past, a custom to hold the deacons' meetings at some of the members' homes. This method was pronounced wonderful from the social point of view, but for the promotion of constructive business, it had been a failure.

The final reports of the building and of the finance committees were adopted. The new parsonage was officially accepted by the congregation, and the committee was discharged with a vote of thanks. The finance committee's report showed the new home to cost a little over \$8,500.

Miss Ruth Kuehl had been our organist for several years and to show our appreciation of her faithful services, her salary was raised \$50 per year. Fifty dollars was appropriated for the use of the Sunday school.

There was considerable discussion on the advisability of securing a pastor who would hold services during Rev. Hanson's vacation and possibly help in doing

field work among the members. This question was finally committed to the Board of Deacons with instructions for such action as they might deem advisable.

Olaf Olson, the oldest member in point of service, on the Board of Trustees, resigned. He had been a trustee for more than 18 years, and had gone through the building period and the reconstruction era in which he proved himself a valuable asset to the board. His constructive ideas were given freely and showed their value in building up the contributing will of the members.

From July, 1928, until 1931, many perplexing problems had been disposed of. Among them were the selection of a new pastor, the drive to pay the remaining debt, the question of more real estate, and the building of the new parsonage. There had been diverse opinions on all these projects and they required much patience and sacrifice for reconciliation.

At the close of the year 1931 the work was completed and the congregation was assembled in special session on December 3. The question of adjusting the hours for Sunday school and the services of Norwegian and English was to be settled. Much evidence of good will and cooperation was shown. The Sunday school teachers presented a resolution which in substance offered acquiescence in any arrangement satisfactory to the others.

The annual meetings of the following years, 1932 and 1933, showed a depression in the finances. Some adjustment was made in the salaries and special effort was to be made to secure pledges enough to cover the budget.

A budget of \$4,047.48 for the year 1934 was adopted, and changes were made in the regular expenditures. The pastor's salary was fixed. The regular offerings to him were discontinued and were placed with the Synodical budget committee.

The depression in finances was present not only locally, but in the synod as well. In October, 1934, Rev. A. J. Bergsaker, secretary of the Synod, and Rev. Philip Dybvig of Stevens Point, arrived to present a plan for raising money for the Synod. They experienced some difficulty in getting a formal hearing from the Board of Deacons and were cordially invited by the Brotherhood to lay their plans before them as they were in regular monthly session that evening.

Rev. A. J. Bergsaker was invited to address the members assembled, and the Penny-a-Meal project was proposed. Assurance was given to him by some of the members present that their proposition would formally come before the congregation, and accordingly, a special meeting of the congregation was called for November 1, 1934.

On the appointed Sunday the containers were gathered by a member of the committee as the people arrived at the entrance to the church. This project brought in \$158.24, which was remitted to the Synod.

The year 1935 began with renewed effort to build up contributing strength.

The deacons and trustees joined in the work of an "every member" canvass. There was whole-hearted cooperation, and the canvass was a decided success. An increase in the general fund was shown for the following year.

On the recommendation of the Sunday school teachers, Junior services were instituted at the close of Sunday school session each Sunday morning.

The Sunday bulletin was also officially sanctioned at this time.

Resurfacing of Building, Decoration of Interior, New Altar, Art Glass Window in Chancel, New Furniture

From 1916 to 1935, a period of almost twenty years, the congregation's one objective was to pay the debt, incurred by the building of the new church.

The members had often expressed a wish for furniture of a style to harmonize with the church architecture, and this wish was about to be realized.

The old altar was much out of proportion to the new surroundings, and was the first to receive attention. James S. Larsen started the fund with a contribution of \$25 for the purchase of a new altar, and thus was started the movement which ultimately resulted in a complete decorating and refurnishing of the church interior.

This was a real business meeting—a very good attendance, splendid harmony, and much to do, with many interested and ready to help. The meeting was adjourned to February 13. The business was to consider two amendments to the constitution, one to fix the length of the pastor's term of service, and the other, to give the Board of Deacons the choice of calling a new pastor, either by trial sermons, as required by the constitution, or by their own direct call.

These proposed amendments were to be tabled for a year, at which time they would come up for final vote.

The pastor's yearly report, given at the annual meeting, January 6, 1937, revealed the following facts:

Baptisms	14
Confirmed	18
Married	8 couples
Buried	21
Total number communed at all services.....	600

There was a total of 41 new members admitted during the year; 29 by admission, and 12 by baptism.



INTERIOR OF OLD CHURCH



INTERIOR OF NEW CHURCH BEFORE BEING REFURNISHED

The report of the Board of Deacons showed that twelve monthly meetings were held. They recommended the observance of the 70th anniversary, and in a general way, outlined a program.

The constitution, Par. 3, Art. 6, was amended, fixing the annual meeting on Wednesday after the 1st Sunday in November in place of in January, as previously held. The budget for the coming year, 1937, called for \$3,180.

The trustees' report was comprehensive on needed improvements. Among these were—waterproofing the exterior, a new altar with art glass background in east wall, new pews, decorating of interior, stoker for boiler room, and some other minor details. This meeting was adjourned to the first Wednesday in February, when these improvements would be the principal business.

On February 3 the meeting convened in the church parlors. The trustees offered a report covering the needed repairs at a cost of \$6,000.

\$500 for new pews was added to this, and the board was instructed to secure bids with the one restriction that the total expenditures should not exceed \$6,500. The meeting was then adjourned to await the call of the trustees. Accordingly, a meeting was called for June 30, 1937. The attendance being small, the meeting was adjourned to July 14. The trustees' second report on cost of desired improvements was \$9,050, considerably over the stipulated sum of \$6,500. The board was authorized to proceed with the improvements and a finance committee was created to plan for the necessary funds to carry this out.

The reconstruction of the church interior consisted of: removing the choir seats and organ console from the left front of the church to the balcony. This enlarged the seating capacity on the main floor.

The pulpit was removed and in its place a lectern was installed.

The circular altar railing was replaced with a metal grill extending across the front of the chancel.

A large art window, having the picture of Christ, the good Shepherd, was installed in the east chancel wall, and new pews replaced the old ones which had served in the old church since 1896. This together with the resurfacing of the exterior made up an expenditure of over \$10,000 and completed a project which had been started more than twenty years before.

The Board of Deacons arranged for the dedication services on the second Sunday in December. Invitations were issued to the district president, Dr. Martin Anderson, to Rev. W. T. Gigstad, the president of the circuit, and to Rev. P. E. Bongsto, our former pastor.

An additional one thousand dollars was placed into the budget. This, with

the arrears of \$557.46, from the previous year, brought the required budget up to \$4,917.46.

The debt was being reduced each year, due to the good will and cooperation of the organizations which were assuming much of the liability properly belonging to the general fund.

A subsequent report showed that the Ladies' Aid, the Men's Brotherhood and the Dorcas society, donated a total of \$1,150 to the remodeling fund and \$215 to the general fund during the year. \$100 of this was contributed by the Ladies' Aid to assist in paying the choir director.

Re-dedication Services, Held December 12, 1937

The rededication of the church and the recognition of the 70th Anniversary took place on Sunday, December 12, 1937, as planned by the Board of Deacons, and here is inserted page I of the regular Sunday bulletin giving the service as rendered that Sunday morning.

Organ Prelude: "Prelude Religioso" (Kuhlau)	Mrs. Robt. Smith
Prayer.....	Rev. R. B. Walden
Hymn No. 81	
Introductory Address.....	Dr. Martin Anderson, District President
Hymn No. 37	
Altar Service: Confession of Sin	
Kyrie Gloria Collect	
Hymn No. 64, v. 1	
Scripture: I Kings, Chapter 8.....	Rev. Hanson
Hymn No. 64, v. 2	
Scripture: Psalm 84.....	Rev. Gigstad
Hymn No. 64, v. 3	
Scripture: Psalm 100.....	Rev. P. E. Bongsto
Hymn No. 64, v. 4	
Scripture: Hebrews. Chapter 10.....	Rev. L. P. Kjer
Hymn No. 64, v. 5	
Scripture: John, Chapter 17.....	Rev. R. B. Walden
Hymn No. 64, v. 6	
Scripture: Rev., Chapter 21.....	Rev. W. T. Gigstad
The Apostolic Faith.....	Pastor and Congregation
Vocal Solo.....	Miss Henrietta Anderson
Sermon and Re-dedication.....	Dr. Martin Anderson
Anthem (Selected)	Senior Choir
Offertory: "Ave Maria"	Schubert
Collect for the Word and Benediction	
Hymn No. 45, v. 1-3	
Closing Prayer.....	Rev. Walden
Organ Postlude: "Allegro Pomposo".....	Galbraith

*1867**After Seventy-five Years**1942*

It was twenty-one years since the church building was erected. All this time it had continued in a semi-completed condition. This was due to the desire to pay the debt before any further expenditures should be made. While the past period of more than twenty years had been given over to paying a debt, much progress in other activities is to be noted. A new generation was rapidly moving into activity. All the organizations experienced an increase in membership and prosperity and extended aid to the general fund when the treasury funds were low.



CHURCH INTERIOR REFURNISHED

The national prejudices which in the past had been a severe handicap to progress had gradually diminished, and at the present time, we are happy to state, have disappeared completely.

In December, 1937, there is recorded an official visit by the district president, Dr. Martin Anderson, and that a meeting was held with the attendance restricted to the officers of the congregation and of the organizations.

The minutes of the annual meeting of November 8, 1939, recorded a change in the organization of the officers of the congregation. From then on, the monthly meetings are to be joint meetings of the deacons and trustees, presided over by a chairman of the joint boards, elected by the congregation. At these joint meetings, the first business on the monthly calendar is to be that of interest common to both trustees and deacons. After this is completed, they are to separate to transact the duties of their respective boards.

The first meeting under this new set-up was held Tuesday evening, December 3, 1940. Mr. Adolph Christenson had been elected chairman of the joint boards, and presided at the meeting. It was decided to observe the 75th Anniversary with fitting ceremonies during the year 1942. Accordingly, a committee of six, consisting of Anton Larsen, John Hansen, Harry G. Anderson, Adolph Christenson, Stanley Ramsett and Anfin Haltug was appointed to formulate the plans to be approved later by a special meeting of the congregation.

Provisions were also made for the pastor's vacation. The deacons were instructed to engage a qualified person to take the pastor's place during the month of August while he should be absent on vacation.

Up to this time the pastor's vacation had been very irregular. Frequently he had denied himself this privilege as it was not considered good policy to leave the church vacant for any length of time.

The meeting also went on record as favoring the new pension plan for pastors, and referred the matter to the joint boards for further consideration and final action.

The annual printed report was again ordered to be sent to the membership at the close of the year. Since 1914 this had been a regular feature of the year's business, but had been discontinued by the board during the last four years.

The importance of maintaining a regular contact with the members was emphasized very strongly in order to offset what in some cases appeared to be a waning interest.

Seventy-fifth Anniversary Program

The following plans for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration were approved at the special meeting on February 26.

A general committee, consisting of two members from each organization, including the two boards and the historical committee, were to be appointed to assume responsibility for the proper observance of this occasion.

Accordingly, the following were appointed:

Trustees.....	E. J. Christianson, Stanley Ramsett
Deacons.....	Anfin Haltug, Anton Larsen
Men's Brotherhood.....	Adolph Christenson, Thurman Stinson
Ladies' Aid.....	Mrs. John Hansen, Mrs. Hjalmar Peterson
Dorcas Society.....	Irene Hanson, Lillian Ramseth
Sunday School.....	Glenn Larsen, Ruth LeRoy
Historical Committee.....	Anton Jarstad, Olaf Olson, Fred Lier, Martin Onstad
Luther League.....	Kathryn Ramsett, Mildred DeCaster
Viking Club.....	Carter Johnson
Mission Circles.....	Mrs. Elsie LaLuzerne, Mrs. F. J. Klaus
Choir.....	Lois Larsen, Austin Evanson
Rev. T. S. Hanson.....	Ex Officio

Sub-committees covering the following were to be appointed: Publicity, Programs and Special Events, Finance, and Historical.

Following is the Calendar of Events as set up by the Program Committee for the Anniversary Year:

- January 6, 1942: Evening Services with Dr. Martin Anderson, Eastern District President, as speaker; followed by a fellowship gathering in Church Parlors.
- January 18, 1942: Sunday Evening Service with members of Brown County Ministerial Association as guests. Sermon by Rev. S. S. Kaldahl of Bethel Lutheran Church.
- February 12, 1942: Civic Night. Banquet with representatives of various branches of city and county governments as guests. Main speaker to be selected from among guests.
- March 22, 1942: Twilight Song Service by choir.
- April 26, 1942: Youth Sunday. Prof. Theo. Huggenvik of St. Olaf College guest speaker at morning service. Twilight song service by Junior Choir in P. M.
- May 3, 1942: Spring Rally of the Brotherhood of Green Bay Circuit.
- June 19-21, 1942: Annual Convention of the Young People's Luther League of Green Bay Circuit.
- July 26, 1942: Homecoming Sunday and Confirmation Reunion at Brown County Fair Grounds. Dr. J. A. Aasgaard, President of N. L. C. A., has been invited to deliver Morning Sermon.
- September, 1942: Fall Meeting of Green Bay Circuit Women's Missionary Federation.
- October, 1942: Fall Convention of Green Bay Circuit Pastors and lay delegates.
- November 1, 1942: Service honoring old members and departed members, and held in conjunction with Annual Mission Festival. Prominent speaker to be secured, but not yet selected.

Each pastor in the circuit was to be invited to preach one Sunday.

As we now close the general story, and glance back over the time covered in this book, we see much accomplished, and much time passed. To the younger generation we say, "Look forward and by the inspiration of the past be resolute and strive for greater things as the years come and go."

Together we thank God for the many good things received and pray for His guidance and blessings into the future.



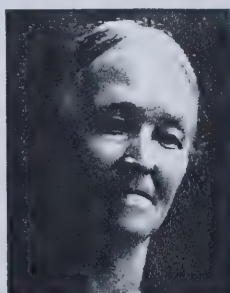
MRS. JOHAN OLSEN



MRS. T. H. DAHL



MRS. T. S. HANSON



MRS. ADOLPH PETERSON

Pastors' Wives



MRS. P. E. BONGSTO

Religious Instruction

One of the outstanding characteristics of the Lutheran Church people is the desire to rear their children in a correct religious life. To this purpose came the parochial teachers and the Sunday school. The earliest mention of religious instruction is in the minutes of a deacon's meeting held January 14, 1879. In translating from the Norwegian it reads: "It was agreed to commence a parochial school in Ole Jorgenson's home for which he was to be paid the sum of \$12.00 a year, wood and stove included. A subscription list was to be circulated by Ole Jorgenson, Hans J. Sorenson, Henrick Johaneson and Jens Knudsen. The first session was held Saturday, January 19, 1879." From then on parochial school was one of the major projects of the congregation. The sessions were held during the vacation period of the public school. When the church treasury could not afford to hire, it was the pastor who taught, and undoubtedly many who now read this are taken back in memory to the summer sessions in the old church on Broadway when Rev. Adolph Peterson instructed his class for a four weeks' period just before confirmation. The last session of parochial school was held during the summer of 1912. Miss Cecile Anderson was the teacher. Since then more emphasis has been placed on the Sunday school.

In the late 70's or early 80's Sunday school assembled in the afternoon. The superintendent was Mr. Johnson, better known as "Snedker Johnson," so called because he was a cabinet maker and furniture repair man. His shop was located on West Walnut Street where Oldenburg and Krippner's store stood. The enrollment at the time was 69.

Hans Jacob Sorenson and Andrew Johnson were also very prominent in Sunday school work and were superintendents during the early 80's. Andrew Johnson was a shipbuilder and lived on Pearl Street. His yard was located where the Northwest Engineering plant now stands.

All these men were outstanding in the qualities necessary for leaders in Sunday school work. They were kind, fervent, sincere and respected and loved by all.

Much honor and credit is due to these faithful men and women who so willingly gave their time to teaching.

Among those who taught classes during the first years were: Mrs. Theodore Dahl (the pastor's wife), Mrs. Johnson, Olave Christianson (Mrs. Andrew Dysland), Lars Olson, Berent Paulson, Rasmus Jorgenson, and Lars Jensen.

When the time came for Rev. and Mrs. Dahl to leave for Stoughton, there was sadness among the children. On the Sunday before they left arrangements were made to bid farewell to Mrs. Dahl and the pastor. Each child waited its



EARLY SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

From left to right: Snekker Johnson, Andrew A. Johnson, Henrick Johanson, Andrew Nelson

turn in a long line to file past and bid them goodbye. Mrs. Dahl wept and so did the children.

The four books used were the ABC book, the Catechism, the Forklaring, and the Bible History. To commit to memory answers to the printed questions and the Bible stories was the task assigned. When these books were mastered, the pupil was ready for confirmation. Supplementary to these books there were several copies of Children's Bible Stories used for oral reading.

Each child brought his penny for the regular collection. This money was used to pay for the Norwegian Sunday school papers.

The two outstanding events of the year were the Annual Picnic and the Christmas festivities. The first picnics were held in a grove on Madam Tank's farm which was occupied by Jacob Mikkelsen. This farm lay on the north side of Ninth Street and extended west from the Chicago & Northwestern tracks. Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Avenues were later cut through the farm south to Ninth Street. The grove was about in the center of the farm. There are still a few trees remaining as mute evidence of the friendly shade enjoyed by the youngsters of three-quarters of a century ago.

There were two approaches to the farm home in the grove—one from Ninth Street, and the other from the north just west of where the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul shops now are.

This grove was a natural beauty spot. The trees were of virgin forest and with the wild flowers and birds was an ideal spot for a Sunday school picnic so near the city.

An arch of "Welcome" was erected over the entrance and tables and benches stood ready to receive the baskets of good things to eat.

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942

There are still those who remember the large wooden swing that had room for two adults and three children, and the two whirligigs to which they clung as they whirled round and round.

Among the games played were: Drop the Handkerchief, Slap Back, Tag, Hide and Go Seek, and Last Couple Out.



A GROUP FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC AT DE PERE DRIVING PARK, 1918

From left to right: Jorgen Thompson, Anton Jarstad, Rev. P. E. Bongsto, Olaf Olsen, Gunder Gunderson, John Anderson, Andrew Nelson

Near the middle of the grove stood the large, crude pulpit. A short board placed across one corner of the railing served as a book rest and from here the pastor frequently delivered the sermon.

The next event of the year was the Christmas festivities. The first in the order of preparation was the solicitation of funds for the purchase of the tree and a present for each child. Then a committee was appointed to purchase the gifts.

This committee was not easily secured, as their task was arduous and often thankless for there were many to please. Among the gifts were cups and saucers, albums, dolls, toy dishes, sewing boxes, tops, knives, and the like.

Small bags of red and white mosquito netting were made and filled with mixed candy and nuts. These together with a large, red apple completed the list of presents.

The tree was covered with the usual decorations and lighted with wax candles.

After the opening services by the pastor, the program of songs and recitations was given by the children—all in the Norwegian language. The program over, each child came forward as his name was called to receive the gift prepared for him.

The adults, also, indulged in the merriment of gift giving to one another. Their gifts, too, were placed under the tree and distributed after the children had received theirs.

At the close of the evening's program, which sometimes continued to nearly midnight, there was a wild scramble of children with both hands filled with candy and presents hunting for parents and searching for wraps.

Among the superintendents who have served since this early period may be mentioned Mr. Andrew Nelson, who also served as *klokker*. He was elected to head the Sunday school in 1898 and continued until he resigned almost 30 years later.

The teachers who served with Mr. Nelson were Olaf Olson, Agnes and Emma Dysland, Albert and Henry Dysland, Rudolph Peterson, G. M. Ellingsøn, Helga Haltug, and Anna and Alma Johnson.

Since the resignation of Andrew Nelson the following have been superintendents: Olaf Olson, Anton Larsen, Fred Lier, Melvin Anderson, Miss Helga Haltug, and at the present time Glenn Larsen.

There has been a constant growth both in attendance and collections since forty years ago; then the attendance was below 100—at the present time the roll numbers 177.

The collections for the year 1898 amounted to \$27.64—an average of about fifty-eight cents per Sunday. In 1908, ten years later, the collection for the year was \$23.33—an average of about fifty cents per Sunday. Since then there has been a constant growth. The annual report for 1940 shows an annual income of over \$300.

The Sunday school as an organization has always been a contributor to the projects that have come up from time to time. In 1914 they started a fund for

the new church. This fund which was started with only 38 cents had in 1925 reached the sum of \$434.62. In 1927 their contribution toward the purchase of the present light fixtures was \$315.95.

Since 1932 the following equipment has been purchased: A steel cabinet for supplies, folding chairs, bulletin board, coat racks for kindergarten rooms, blackboards, Concordia Hymnaries, attendance board and two framed pictures—one is "Jesus Blessing Little Children" and the other is "Christ in the Temple."

In 1928 regular contributions were begun for Missions.

The birthday box was introduced; as each child's birthday arrived, a number of pennies equal to his age was put into the box. Every six months the box was opened and the sum donated to Missions.

The class room methods have changed since the days when the lessons were memory work alone. In 1923 the grade system was introduced and a kindergarten class was started with Mrs. Anton Larsen and Miss Neal Anderson as teachers. For several years past the graded course of study published by Augsburg Publishing House has been used.

Since 1936 a junior choir consisting of Sunday school pupils has taken a prominent part in the exercises by singing each Sunday.

While the older pupils are attending the Junior services in the auditorium, the Primary department has its story hour in the parlors led by the Primary superintendent. Short prayers or Bible stories are told or read to them and pictures are used for illustrations.

As an incentive to perfect attendance, the merit system has been introduced. This is by awarding a cross for perfect attendance. Each perfect year adds another star. The children all strive for the most perfect record and several have crosses with more than one star engraved.

At the present time as we look back over this period of sixty years, only a very few remember the first picnics and Christmas festivals, but there have been many pleasant events since then remembered by many.

The boat rides to the De Pere Driving Park on the Dennison boat of twenty-five years ago are brought to mind. These events were all day affairs. At 8 a. m. everyone would assemble at the Barkhausen dock at the foot of the Walnut Street bridge on the west side. Parents, teachers and children would come loaded with lunch baskets, equipment for making coffee, camp chairs, hammocks and even, in some instances, baby carriages with baby and all, everyone happy in anticipation of a pleasant day. All would crowd close to the ropes eager to be the first on board to secure the best seat. As the captain removed the ropes from

the entrance and shouted "All aboard," there was a grand rush. When all were safely seated the gang planks were pulled in, the bridge opened and the boat was on its way up the river. The dock at the park was a narrow board walk built on high posts and extending far into the river. Great care was taken lest some little one would fall into the water. When all were on land the boat left for the day, but came back in the evening for the return trip.

The day at the park was spent under the supervision of the teachers. The parents were permitted to spend the day as they wished and enjoyed the time as much as the children.

The food was brought by the individual, each one being told what to bring by the committee. The fare for the boat trip, the ice cream, lemonade and pop were provided and paid for out of the treasury.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, 1941

Front row: left to right: Oriana DeCaster, Evelyn Ramsett, Mildred DeCaster, Mrs. A. Hansen, Mrs. LeRoy
 Second row: Kathryn Ramsett, Doris Larsen, Lillian Ramseth, Mrs. R. Hanson, Irene Hanson, Ann Berglund
 Third row: Henrietta Anderson, Mrs. A. M. Christenson, Helen Hanson, Mrs. Rehbein
 Back row: Austin Evanson, Harvey Scory, Rev. Hanson, Glenn Larsen



SUNDAY SCHOOL OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 1941

A committee had charge of the entertainment. Games were played and contests held. Prizes were awarded and, win or lose, everybody received a prize. The closing event of the day was usually the "Tug of War." Two captains would choose their teams, each one taking one end of the rope and at a given signal they would take a firm hold, tramp their feet into the ground for a good foothold and the contest was on. The team which dragged the other over the lawn was the winner.

When the time came to go home the boat would arrive too soon. The trip home was much more quiet. Many of the children would fall asleep and had to be carried off the boat. Before landing the trip was continued out to the Second Light and return and thus ended another Sunday school year.



CONFIRMATION CLASS 1901

Front row: Johanna Larsen (Mrs. G. M. Ellingson), Anna Westberg, Rev. A. Peterson, Clara Homme, Clara Dysland

Middle row: Nina Christiansen, Theo. Radick, Olaf Anderson

Top row: Vena Hall (Mrs. M. Lachapelle), Dagphin Olsen, Anna Amundsen (Mrs. H. R. Mittlestad), Arthur Anderson, Ellen Madsen (Mrs. L. Christianson), Albert Jacobson, Anna Johnson (Mrs. Edw. Larsen), Carrie Kolbrak (Mrs. Chas. Hornibrook)

There have been many changes in methods since the first picnics in Mikkelsen's Grove sixty years ago. Then all walked and carried their lunch. In the 90's horse and wagon were used for trips out to places along the Bay. A few years later boat rides were common and now the automobile takes them to their destination.

The outdoor picnics were discontinued in 1936. The last one was held at Melvin Anderson's home on the East Bank of the Fox River just south of De Pere. This being the last one, we shall review the day just for memory's sake.

At 10 in the morning teachers and children assembled at the church and from there they went by auto to the Anderson home. Before noon the older children played baseball and the men pitched horse shoes on another part of the ground.

The committee prepared the noon lunch. Large tables were placed in the garage upon which were placed quantities of good food taken from the baskets. Coffee was prepared in the kitchen. The children were the first to be served and helped themselves cafeteria style.

After the meal the games were continued with renewed vigor. Prizes were awarded to those who excelled in the games of contest such as the bag race, footrace, three-legged race, long jump and the tug of war. Some enjoyed swimming in the river. A row boat and experienced swimmers were on hand as a safeguard against cramps and accidents to the inexperienced ones. The smaller children were entertained with swinging and playing supervised games. They also enjoyed the ice cream cones, cracker-jack and pop provided for the afternoon.

Before the close of the day everyone walked in a slow parade before Mr. Onstad's moving picture camera. Some day they hope to show their children how they looked and acted when they were little.

At the present time, 1941, the Sunday school staff consists of the following: Rev. T. S. Hanson, pastor; Glenn Larsen, superintendent; Lillian Ramseth, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Ruth Le Roy, Primary superintendent; Kathryn Ramsett, organist; Evelyn Ramsett, secretary and treasurer; Ethel Peterson, assistant secretary and treasurer, and the following teachers: Harvey Scory, Doris Larsen, Mrs. Arthur Hansen, Mrs. Robert Hansen, Mildred De Caster, Mrs. Harold Rehbein, Helen Hanson, Irene Hanson, Henrietta Anderson, Austin Evanson.



FIRST CHOIR, 1890

First row: Anna Christianson, Petra Jorgensen, Anna Anderson
 Second row: Anna Warwick, Minnie Peterson, Julia Peterson, Selma Sorenson, Christine Nelson
 Third row: Henry Jorgensen, Celius Christianson, Anna Jacobsen, Andrew Onstad, M. A. Onstad
 Fourth row: Gerhart Jorgensen, Gabriel Jorgensen, Sigurd Larsen



SENIOR CHOIR 1941-1942

Front row, left to right: Evelyn Ramsette, Dorothy Anderson, Gloria Christensen, Elaine Christensen, Dorothy Haltug, Selma Hansen, Audrey Kaidetz, Mrs. A. M. Christensen
 Second row: Irene Hanson, Henrietta Anderson, Kathryn Ramsett, Mrs. Merle Johnson, Elaine Kaidetz, Lena Jacobson, Ileen Anderson, Mrs. R. G. Smith, Merle Johnson
 Third row: Glenn Larsen, Myron Hanson, Orville Hansen, K. N. Hagen, William Collins, Austin Evanson, Gabriel Jorgensen
 Members not present at the time picture was taken: Arnold Didrickson, Clifton Koolma

Music

Music has always led a prominent part in the church service. The earliest mention of it is found in the minutes of the deacons' meeting of January 8, 1870, which state that a sexton or "Kirkesanger" was elected to act as assistant to the pastor. He rang the bell at the call of service, read the opening and closing prayers and led the congregation in singing.

At this same meeting, Rev. Olson was authorized to solicit funds for an organ which it is said he had already purchased on his own accord and had brought home for use in the congregation.

The minutes of a meeting on May 20, 1880, reveal that the organist had resigned and someone to fill the vacancy was needed. There is no mention of his name, but an offering was to be taken to pay him for his services for the preceding six months. The minutes further state that a competent organist was very difficult to find.

The deacons' minutes of November 14, 1881, record that a Mrs. Hansen had resigned as organist and a Mr. Jensen was suggested as her successor. He was to be paid whatever might be agreed upon by him and Mikkel Eliason was appointed to take this matter up with Mr. Jensen.

At a meeting on March 5, 1883, the question of an organist was again brought up on the resignation of Mr. Sorenson who was serving in that capacity at that time. Rev. Peterson was requested to consult with him, and if possible try to retain him. He apparently served only on special occasions for on July 20, 1885, Mr. Ludwig Sogey was suggested for the position. He, however, did not accept and Mr. Sorenson continued as organist until the end of 1886. Mr. Sorenson is remembered as being blind and yet proved very capable in spite of his handicap.

On January 10, 1887, the church council chose Miss Petronella Nelson for the position. There is no mention of music in the records from this time until 1892. There were apparently several persons who served. It is known that Rudolph Peterson had the position for a while, followed by Jorgen Thompson, who in turn was succeeded in 1903 by Clara Dysland and Anna Johnson (now Mrs. Ed. Larsen). For a while the latter two played on alternate Sundays. Later on Anna Johnson was the only organist until 1913.

Her successor was Elsie Anderson (now Mrs. H. P. La Luzerne) who served for three years. Ingeborg Johansen, Ruth Erickson, and Helga Haltug served at various times until 1922 when Mrs. Robert Smith, who is the present organist, took over the work.

As stated above the first organ was purchased by Rev. Olson about 1870. At the annual meeting on January 8, 1892, the matter of replacing it was discussed. The minutes state that \$450 had already been subscribed for a new organ and that the old organ was sold for \$25. Accordingly a small pipe organ was installed in the balcony of the church. This organ required the services of a pumper who received \$5 per year for his services. This instrument was used for thirty-five years. It was removed from the old church which was razed in 1916 and installed in the new church erected in 1917. The organ in use at the present time was purchased in 1927. It may be of interest to note that on February 26, 1919, Miss Rachel Siegrist, who was then serving as choir director, deposited \$7.50 in the McCartney Bank, thereby establishing a fund for a new organ. On June 3 of the same year, Mrs. Thor Anderson added \$25 to the fund in memory of her late son, Arthur. These were the first donations to the fund which provided the present organ.

During the first twenty years of the congregation's existence, the church music consisted only of congregational singing led by the sexton or "Kirkesanger." Those who wished to would assemble at the church or at a home and practice the hymns used at the services. On the festival days of Christmas and Easter this group sang a special hymn alone. Among those who are remembered as the first to assemble for this purpose were Mrs. Thor Anderson, Mrs. Christ Helgeson, and Karen Christensen.

The first choir director was Andrew Onstad who came from Norway in 1887. Being gifted in music, he at once set about organizing a choir.

Of this group Gabriel Jorgenson is still an active member of the choir. Martin Onstad, though not at present an active member, has supplied much of the data of this history.

In 1897, Andrew Onstad enrolled as a student at St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minnesota. Here he founded the choir and band which have since become internationally famous. He is now a resident of San Luis Obispo, California, where he conducts a music studio.

Rev. Peterson served as choir director following Mr. Onstad's departure and at times was assisted by his son, Rudolph. About the time the present church was built, Miss Siegrist was director. In the early '20's we had Prof. Enna. Since 1932 the following directors have worked with the choir: Mrs. Chas. Hume, 1932; Prof. Enna, 1933; Wm. Ahring, 1934; Mrs. H. S. Walters, 1935 to 1937; Wm. Ahring, 1937 until his death in 1941. Mr. Merle Johnson, our present director, has served since then.

Under the leadership of Andrew Onstad a singing society known as Larkin (The Lark) was organized and proved popular for many years. Although it was

not under the auspices of the church, it was made up exclusively of members of the church and deserves mention here. It had a membership of twenty-seven including Anna Anderson, Selius Christianson, Anna Christianson, Carl Hansen, Gabriel Jorgenson, Gerhard Jorgenson, Edward Lier, Sigurd Larson, Mary Larson, Christina Nelson, Nellie Nelson, Anna Nelson, Andrew Nelson, Andrew Onstad, Martin Onstad, Minnie Peterson, Anna Paulson, Julia Peterson, Emma Peterson, Anna Radick, Selma Sorenson, Laura Sogey, John Swenson, Harold Sorenson, Ingebor Swenson, Henry Jorgenson and Caroline Erickson.

This organization met regularly, gave concerts, and sang at various institutions. Their usual meeting place was the I. O. G. T. hall located on Third Street. They sang sacred songs as well as the national songs of Norway. This group was very active in raising funds for purchasing the first pipe organ mentioned above.

The youngest musical organization of our church is the Junior choir. It was organized in 1930 with Helga Haltug as director. Its chief purpose is to sing at



JUNIOR CHOIR

Front row, left to right: Margaret Rose Warwick, Ruth Broen, Gladys Ramsett, Dorothy Holz Shirley Bruce

Second row: Mrs. A. M. Christenson, Billy Hansen, Sylvia Hansen, Lois Nelson, Gloria Leisch, June Anderson, Rudy Herwald, Kathryn Ramsett

Third row: Jan Evans, Audrey Broen, Emma Braun, Doris Johnson, Fern Larsen, Donald Hanson

the Junior services. It is composed of Sunday school children of pre-confirmation age. Mrs. Robert Smith, Mrs. Harvey Scory, Kathryn Ramsett, Wm. Ahring, and Austin Evanson have served as directors. At present it is under the leadership of Mrs. A. M. Christenson and has the following officers:

President	Gloria Leisch
Vice President.....	Margaret Warwick
Secretary and Treasurer.....	Lois Nelson
Librarian	Gladys Ramsett
Robe Custodian.....	Doris Johnson
Chairs	Jan Evans
Pianist	Gladys Ramsett
Organist	Kathryn Ramsett

It has a membership of twenty-five. On May 11, 1941, it presented its first concert in the church auditorium. On October 12, 1941, they appeared in concert as guests of the Junior League at the Bay View Church at Sawyer, Wisconsin. On December 21, 1941, a cantata, "Chimes of the Holy Night," was presented in the church and another concert is planned for Youth Sunday, April 26, 1942.

Many of these Junior choir members eventually become members of the Senior choir and thereby keep alive the tradition that "The Lutheran Church Is a Singing Church."

Ladies' Aid

IN THE YEAR 1868 just one year after the congregation was organized, the "Norwegian Ladies' Sewing Society" of Fort Howard came into being. In the absence of early records, it is proper to assume that the following were charter members: Mrs. Ole Jorgenson, Mrs. Hans Jacob Sorenson, Mrs. Halvor Nelson, Mrs. Hans Olson, Mrs. Gunder Gunderson, Mrs. Evan Anderson, Mrs. Johan Olson, Mrs. Ole Christenson, Mrs. Gurine Hoegh, Mrs. Behrendt Olson, and Mrs. Albert Anderson. It is said that they were active workers and may properly be credited as being the first to voice the desire for the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Fort Howard.

The first leader of this group was Mrs. Olson, the pastor's wife. The purpose of the organization was to give help financially. The first church was being built and money was needed to pay for materials and labor. The meetings were



LADIES' AID 1917

Top row, left to right: Mesdames Gilbert Lier, Christ Paulson, Anton Jarstad, P. E. Bongsto, Peter Stinson, A. Haltug, Jennie Anderson, A. M. Jacobson, Albert Gigstad, F. Sanders, H. Lawrence, M. A. Onstad, Dora Hjort, Elias Johanson, Lulu Hjort
 Second row: Mesdames John Didrickson, C. Larsen, Berndt Paulson, A. M. Schultz, R. Jorgensen, Theo. Anderson, Jim Amundson, Gunder Ellingson, Bertha Hanson, Wm. Hjort
 Third row: Mesdames Rachel Lier, August Westberg, Paul Madsen, John Anderson, Axel Johnson, Andrew Johnson, Christ Gates, O. Nelson, P. Olsen



LADIES' AID SOCIETY 1941

Front row, left to right: Mesdames Josephine Anderson, Christ Nelson, Toger Nelson, Olaf Erickson, John Didrickson, Petra Robinson, Louis Swanson . . .
 Second row, left to right: Mesdames Wm. Hammon, A. Storm, Hartwig Hanson, Martin Hanson, Guy Engebretsen, Anton Johnson, Anna Dysland, Atland Olsen . . . Third row, left to right: E. J. Christianson, John Klicka, Eli Boomsma, Edward Larsen, Ed Shaw, John Hansen, Harold Rehbein, John Lier, A. M. Jacobson, J. A. West . . . Fourth row, left to right: Mesdames H. DeCaster, G. G. Lier, Olaf Olsen, P. Peterson, P. Pearson, M. A. Onstad, Anton Larsen, S. Aebischer, Victor Engebretsen, H. Holz, A. Jarstad . . . Fifth row, left to right: Mesdames H. Lawrence, D. Magnussen, Rev. T. S. Hanson, L. Peeters, R. Rogan, Anna Haltug . . . Top row, left to right: Mesdames P. N. Forsythe, G. M. Ellingson, T. S. Hanson, Harvey Scory, Harold Bruce, A. Frangquist, L. F. Kramer, Fred Lier . . . Members not present when picture was taken: Mesdames Henry Anderson, Harry Anderson, Walter Anderson, H. G. Anderson, Wm. Alberts, F. Bregger, A. H. Brolin, L. Broan, D. Barrette, G. Boomsma, H. Blom, M. Brisk, L. Bordelau, F. Ehman, C. B. Gustavson, Carl Jacobson, Carter Johnson, Alf. Johnson, Helmer Johnson, Theo Johnson, Harry Jensen, Ray Jensen, Hilda Kampo, Helmer Larsen, H. P. LaLuzerne, Rachel Lier, Theo. Menning, C. Madsen, Emil Nelson, O. A. Olsen, Hjalmer Peterson, Fred Robinson, A. Shelsness, A. Schley, T. A. Stinson, R. Sheriff, A. Thomas

held twice a month at the homes. The membership was small so the homes had ample room.

It was a sacrifice to attend meetings in these early days. Many came from a distance across lots. They walked, as street cars and automobiles were not in use, and sidewalks and concrete streets were unknown.

The attendance is said to have been almost perfect, as all were glad to meet, happy at the thought of soon having a church and glad to visit and talk over the events since they last met. It was not all talk, however; everyone brought work to do. Twenty-five cents was collected from each person with which material was purchased to make garments for the children, aprons for the ladies, and sox and mittens for the men.

The first sale and supper was held in 1871 in a hall located on the southeast corner of Pearl and W. Walnut Streets. After the supper and sale was over, the remaining articles would be disposed of by auction, and frequently the members would buy the same garments they had spent the year in making. Some of our members remembered attending the sales here as children. The date is evidently correct as the hall burned in 1873.

The second place of the sale and supper was "Butcher Anderson's Hall" on West Walnut Street. The first sale here was a decided success. Everyone was anxious that it should be. The day of the sale was near—not many tickets had been sold. The Lutheran congregation on the East side was well established and Rev. Dahl called on his friend, the pastor. It is said that the entire congregation came over and very substantially added to the receipts of the evening.

These early sales were well attended, not only by their own members, but by the Belgians, and the Irish. Even the Indians wore socks and mittens knit by the Norwegian ladies.

At this point in the history, 1873, we have the first mention of the Ladies' Aid. The deacons' minutes state that \$343.67 was donated by them to help pay for the furniture for the new church.

During the period from 1873 to the arrival of Rev. Adolph Peterson in 1881 the ladies were active and very enthusiastic. One difficulty was that they did not always agree to support the same objective. In the year 1873 a difference of opinion arose as to what the earnings should be used for. One group headed by Mrs. Ole Jorgenson and Mrs. Lars Olson preferred to use the funds earned for mission work and for paying the parochial teacher.

The original group, of which Mrs. Dahl was president, felt that the earnings should go to the general fund as had been done heretofore. Up to this time the congregation was struggling through the organization period, and all effort

had been centered on the projects at home. A small debt was left on the church building, and many things were needed in the line of fixtures and furniture for its completion; then perhaps their duty to the missions was not appreciated as it should have been. Possibly they were weak in the use of parliamentary rules, not appreciating that the minority should support the majority after a fair vote had been taken.

They were unable to agree, the group favoring the missions and the parochial school set up independently and for a time there were two Ladies' Aids, meeting independently of one another. This condition lasted only a short time when all came together under one leader, and with only one objective. Since that time they have worked together in peace and harmony to the best interests of the congregation, and each year since they have donated regularly to missions. For a number of years it was a standing order that the five cents collected called "coffee money" should be the contribution. This was the rule until the coffee collection was raised to ten cents; since they contribute \$50 yearly.

In contrasting the present business methods with that of twenty years ago it is found that at the present time many of the members are graduates of high school and college, and also, being members of other organizations, are proficient in the application of the rules of procedure. This is a decided improvement over the old huddle method which was used when only a few shaped the destiny of the organization.

In the late 80's and early 90's the sales were held in Music Hall located on the corner of West Walnut and South Chestnut Streets. This hall was on the second floor and was reached by a long stairway up which all supplies and equipment had to be carried.

Lumber was used to build tables and seats. Everything needed—linens, dishes and food was brought from the homes. Oysters, turkey, and boiled tongue were served. Some of these sales netted \$100 which then was considered a neat sum.

After the supper was over it required as much work to clear the hall as it did to get it ready. The tables and seats had to be taken out and the dishes washed. Water had to be carried both up and down the long stairway. They often worked until midnight and frequently came back the next day to finish the job.

The sales were continued here for many years until Ansgar Hall was chosen. This was a new building and had a kitchen with modern equipment. The work here was much easier. It was here the reception and banquet for Rev. and Mrs. Bongsto was held in March, 1912. Rev. Theo. H. Dahl was present that evening and installed Rev. Bongsto the following Sunday.

In the year 1917 the new church was completed and since then the sales have been held in the church parlors. The kitchen here is fitted with modern equipment, including coffee percolator and steam tables.

Since 1911 there has been a continuous growth in earnings and membership.

ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP—1911

Mrs. James Larson	Mrs. Gunder Ellingson	Mrs. Peter Jones
Mrs. Thor Anderson	Mrs. L. P. Larsen	Mrs. John Anderson
Mrs. Andrew Johnson	Mrs. Martin Hansen	Mrs. Peter Jensen
Mrs. Anton Hansen	Mrs. Petra Robinson	Mrs. James Anderson
Mrs. Andrew Dysland	Mrs. Bert Larson	Mrs. Thomas Olson
Mrs. Axel Johnson	Mrs. Martin Onstad	Mrs. Andrew Jacobsen
Mrs. Paul Schultz	Mrs. Mary Erdman	Mrs. Henry Lawrence
Mrs. John Diedrickson	Mrs. Paul Madsen	Mrs. Ole Anderson
Mrs. Olaf Olson		Mrs. Peter Stinson

The earnings for the year 1911 were slightly more than \$265. The main sources of income were from articles made and sold, collections at the meetings, and the annual sale, which this year brought in \$157.20.

The price of a supper ticket was 25 cents. The bill for provisions gives: meat \$9.86, hall rent \$5.00. The total cost of the supper was \$32.36.

Four years later, 1915, the earnings for the year were \$596.87. The collection at the meetings had risen to \$3.00 which indicates that the attendance was increasing.

In the year 1923 the price of supper tickets was raised to 50 cents. The fall sale this year netted \$583.73. These were the largest proceeds from any single undertaking yet given.

This year the Aid also sponsored a concert by St. Olaf Choir which added \$122.45 to the year's receipts.

The seventeen years from 1911 to about 1928 can be designated as a building-up period and lends itself well for an illustration of progress. The membership had grown to over 60 and the average collection at meetings to about \$10. The years 1925 and 1928 were the banner years up to this time. The earnings were \$1,403.58 for 1925 and \$1,424.11 for 1928.

The yearly earnings at the close of this period were seven times what they were in 1911.

The total contribution for this period is \$17,697.70 and since then to the present another \$12,000 may be added which brings the figures up to about \$39,000 in thirty years' time.

At the close of the year 1930 the ladies had on hand \$1,600 which was applied to the cost of the new parsonage.

Each year since they have given regularly \$600 toward debt retirement. The balance of the earnings are used in the payment of the choir director and to needed improvements.

Besides the above mentioned sources it may be stated that various sales of food, vanilla and rummage helped to make up the annual earnings.

In 1934 \$190.44 was earned by serving meals to people attending the State High School Band Tournament which was held in Green Bay that year.

The first Easter party was held in 1935. The mite bags which had been given out at the beginning of the Lenten season were collected and yielded a substantial Easter offering. A reserve fund to be used for furnishing and decorating the church was set up this year.

From time to time the meeting is given over to appropriate programs in recognition of some person or event.

Taken from the minutes of October 9, 1935, we find that a Leif Erickson program was given.

The minutes of September 29, 1937, record that four weeks hence a special program will be given in honor of Mrs. Andrew Johnson as recognition of her 80th birthday. For more than 60 years she had been a member of the Aid. Mrs. Henry Lawrence read the poem, "Old Mother," and Janice Scory sang "Happy Birthday."

Special gifts are received from time to time which add materially to the year's receipts. For many years Mrs. Paul Madsen donated a quilt which when disposed of brought \$15.00 or more.

On November 11, 1937, Miss Laura Knudson presented a hand painted picture in memory of her mother and her sister, Mrs. Peter Hall.

LADIES' AID

For want of space, a tribute to the members of the Ladies' Aid can be paid only in a general way.

Many have been honored by election to office. Beginning with the year 1880, the following leaders are brought to mind:

Mrs. Andrew Erickson
Mrs. Albert Anderson
Mrs. Behrendt Olson
Mrs. Adolph Peterson

Mrs. Gusena Hough
Mrs. John Anderson
Mrs. Lars Olson

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942

From 1900 until 1912 there may be mentioned:

Mrs. Mary Erdman	Mrs. Bert Larson
Mrs. Jennie Anderson	Mrs. Martin A. Onstad
Mrs. Peter Jones	Mrs. Rachel Lier

Many of the above mentioned have passed on, and to their memory is quoted the following from John Greenleaf Whittier:

"Oh, time and change, with hair as gray
As was my Sire's that far off day.
How strange it seems with so much gone
Of life and love to still live on.
Yet Love will dream and Faith will trust
Since He who knows our need is just
That somehow, somewhere, meet we must."

Continuing from 1913 the Presidents have been:

Mrs. Walter Petersen	Mrs. Peter Hall
Mrs. James Anderson	Mrs. James Larson

In 1920 Mrs. Clarence Paulson was elected but moved away. She was succeeded by Mrs. P. E. Bongsto who continued in office for eight years until 1928. Since then the Presidents have been as follows:

Mrs. Anton Jarstad	Mrs. Anna Haltug
Mrs. T. S. Hanson	Mrs. Gilbert Lier
Mrs. Henry Lawrence	Mrs. Ed. Larsen
Mrs. Atland Olson	

and Mrs. G. M. Ellingson at present.

The others who have served as officers are as Vice Presidents:

Mrs. Herman Holz	Mrs. Carter Johnson
Mrs. Martin Hansen	Mrs. Harry Anderson
Mrs. Guy Ingebretsen	Mrs. A. H. Brolin

This story closed with the year 1941 which is three generations advanced in time since the charter members laid the foundation of the Ladies' Aid in the year 1867. Their daughters and granddaughters are the members today, all striving to uphold the traditions of the past in honor of the mothers who have gone. The present officers are:

Mrs. Edward Larsen, President
Mrs. Harvey Scory, Secretary
Mrs. Martin Hansen, Vice President
Mrs. John Lier, Treasurer
Mrs. A. H. Brolin, Vice President
Mrs. Louis Kramer, Sunshine Chairman

Mission Circles

The need for an independent organization to have charge of the mission work had for many years been apparent. On October 20, 1931, Mrs. Henry Lawrence and Mrs. G. M. Ellingson invited a group of ladies to meet at the Ellingson home for the purpose of organizing. Those present at this first meeting and designated as charter members were:

Mrs. T. S. Hanson
Mrs. Henry Lawrence
Mrs. Arthur Thomas
Mrs. Paulus Peterson
Mrs. Harry G. Anderson
Mrs. Atland Olson

Mrs. G. M. Ellingson
Mrs. Anton Jarstad
Mrs. Helmer Johnson
Mrs. Martin Hansen
Mrs. O. A. Olson

The first officers elected were: Mrs. Henry Lawrence, President; Mrs. Martin Hansen, Secretary-Treasurer.

The congregation was divided into three parts and designated as Circles Nos. 1, 2, and 3, each to have its own officers and subject to the general constitution to act independently of one another.

The meetings are held at the various homes on the first Tuesday of the month in the afternoon.



MISSION CIRCLE NUMBER ONE

Mesdames Refus, G. M. Ellingson, H. G. Anderson, Edw. J. Christianson, G. Boomsma, J. A. West, Martin Hansen
Seated: Mesdames Peter N. Forsythe, Henry Lawrence Thos. S. Hanson, Albright, Anna Haltug, Anton Jarstad

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942



MISSION CIRCLE NUMBER TWO

Standing: Mesdames Bruce, Hilda Kampo, Miss Neal Anderson, Mrs. F. Klaus, Mesdames Josephine Anderson, Arthur Thomas, Anton Larsen, Fred Robinson, John Hansen, Atland Olsen
Sitting: Mesdames T. S. Hanson, John Diedrickson, Anton Johnson, Petra Robinson, Adolph Anderson, Harvey Scory



MISSION CIRCLE NUMBER THREE

Reading from left to right, first row: Mrs. L. Kramer, Mrs. Hjalmer Peterson, Mrs. A. Conklin, Mrs. John Lier, Mrs. Fred Lier, Mrs. Gilbert Lier
Back row: Mrs. H. Holz, Mrs. Ed Larson, Mrs. O. A. Olsen, Mrs. C. Skrivseth, Mrs. W. Hanson, Mrs. Petersen, Mrs. T. S. Hanson
Not on picture: Mrs. Henry Lawrence, Mrs. A. West, Mrs. Paulus Petersen, Mrs. E. Christianson, Mrs. A. M. Christianson

The second general annual meeting was held January 5, 1932, in the church parlors. It was here that the constitution as prepared by the committee consisting of Mrs. T. S. Hanson, Mrs. H. G. Anderson and Mrs. Carter Johnson was adopted.

At the next annual meeting held January 3, 1933, the three groups were assembled to report on the work of the past year.

Mrs. Anton Jarstad, Secretary-Treasurer of Circle 1, reported \$16.70 as earnings for the year.

Mrs. Arthur Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer of Circle 2 reported \$32.96 as the balance in their treasury.

Mrs. G. G. Lier reported a balance of \$19.81 for Circle 3.

These sums together with others of general origin amounted to \$88.60.

Added to this material asset are the social and cultural values derived from interesting and instructive programs given by the members.

After an existence of ten years it is encouraging to note that the general plan is still followed and that the attendance and interest is increasing from year to year.

In the well-kept minutes of the ten annual meetings it is recorded that the earnings during this time were donated to the various charities.

In the year 1934 the first Confirmation Banquet was held and has been an annual feature since.

Gifts have been sent to our Wittenberg homes in memory of the following departed members:

Mrs. James Larson
Mrs. Peter Rydstrom
Mrs. Stanley Ramsett
Mrs. John Anderson
Mrs. Theo. Anderson

Mrs. Melvin Anderson
Mrs. Joseph Kukral
Mrs. Henry Helgersen
Mrs. Marie Kolbrak

God calls our loved ones.
But we lose not wholly
What He has given.
They live on earth in thought and deed
As truly as in Heaven.

Present officers:

Mrs. Anna Haltung, President
Mrs. Martin Hansen, Vice President
Mrs. E. J. Christianson, Secretary-Treasurer
Mrs. Hjalmar Peterson, Cradle Roll Secretary



DORCAS SOCIETY

From left to right, front row: Mrs. A. Didrickson, Mrs. E. Reimer, Mrs. T. S. Hanson, Irene Hanson, Estelle Stinson, Kathryn Ramsett, Doris Larsen, Lillian Ramseth
 Back row: Mrs. H. Scory, Mrs. E. Hansen, Helen Kukral, Mrs. F. J. Klaus, Henrietta Anderson, Mrs. W. VandenNoven, Leone Stinson, Helen Hanson, Lois Larsen
 Not on picture: Evelyn Ramsett, Geraldine Hanson, Joyce Hansen, Nathalie Johnson, Annette Johnson, Dora Hjorth, Lulu Hjorth, Neal Anderson, Mrs. R. Smith

Dorcas Society

In the spring of 1902, just forty years ago, four young girls assembled at the home of Neal Anderson and formed an organization that since that time has continued to exert a Christian influence upon the lives of young girls in our congregation.

According to information furnished, the group consisted of Miss Neal Anderson, Anna Johnson (Mrs. Ed. Larsen), Emma Larsen (Mrs. Henry Lawrence), and Caroline Erickson (Mrs. Anton Johnson) who was also the first president. No complete records were kept of the first years of the organization's existence; it seems that the formality of elections and a complete executive committee did not come into existence until several years had passed.

The name of the organization was designated by four letters of the alphabet, "N. F. B. B.," and is said to have meant "Not Finished But Begun." A few years later the name was changed to Young Girls' Sewing Society, and as this name signifies, the members were ambitious. A variety of garments were sewed and later sold to provide money to purchase needed articles for the church.

In 1912, the name was again changed to "Dorcas" by which it is known at the present time. This name was proposed by Miss Clara Dysland who went into missionary work in Madagascar three years later. It is said that in memory of this society and Miss Dysland's Christian friends at home, she gave the name Dorcas to a little native baby girl who is now a Christian mother of several children in this far-away land. The name is taken from the Bible story of the woman who sewed to give to the poor. The officers at this time were Mrs. Ed. Larsen, President, and Miss Clara Dysland, Secretary and Treasurer.

Since 1912 the Dorcas has been in continuous activity. Meetings are held once each month at the homes of the members or in the church parlors. Looking back in the minutes of a business meeting held on January 14, 1916, it is recorded that a Christmas sale at which coffee and cake were served netted the society \$41.30, and a quilt donated by Mrs. Paul Madsen, yielded a sum of \$15.40.

The loyalty and Christian spirit of the members is shown by the many purchases of articles needed by the church, among which are: the white baptismal font, now in use, the present altar chairs, piano, candelabra and altar cross, curtains, hymn books, altar cloth and the lectern. Since the erection of the present church building in 1916 the Dorcas contributions to the building debt and to the purchase of the new pipe organ amount to \$2,372.92. Together with this the outside benevolences have not been forgotten, and from time to time cash donations have been given to the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and to the hospitals; and so year by year the world is made better and the Dorcas Society is happier for the good it does.

Present officers:

Mrs. Ed Hansen, President

Miss Leone Stinson, Vice President

Miss Annette Johnson, Secretary

Miss Estelle Stenson, Treasurer

Mrs. Robert Smith, Sunshine Chairman



BROTHERHOOD

First row, seated: John Didrickson, M. A. Onstad, Anton Jarstad, John Hansen, P. W. Jorgensen, Einar Ramseth, Adolph S. Anderson, Thurman Stinson, Edward Larsen
 Second row: Adolph West, Hjalmar Peterson, L. A. Thune, Anton Larsen, Hans Anderson, Carter Johnson, E. J. Christianson, O. A. Olson, Arnold J. Anderson
 Third row: Stanley Ramsett, Olaf Olsen, C. J. Skrivseth, Eli Boomsma, Carl Dysland, Harry Anderson, Helmer Johnson, A. M. Christenson, Carl Jacobson, Martin Amenson

Brotherhood

About the year 1914 the Brotherhood came into being. Since there are no written records from the beginning up to 1930, we confine ourselves to the recollection of a group of charter members and rely upon their memory.

This organization was formed because of a decided need for building up of interest in church work.

For several years the attendance was very small. Frequently less than ten were present. The programs were made up by our own members. They enjoyed being together and year by year the attendance grew until the average is over 25 at a meeting, and special programs bring as many as 75 interested men.

The first officers of which there is a record were Thurman Stinson, President; Harold Synnes, Vice-President; Anton Larsen, Secretary; Melvin Anderson, Treasurer.

Two years later the officers were changed about and the President became the Treasurer. The records are not clear, but we rely on the memory of the Treasurer who held office before the first World War, and who relates the following: "When I left for the army I did not have time to resign, or to turn over the money which consisted of several small coins in a tin box. When I returned I found the tin box just where I had left it."

The activities of the newly formed society were interrupted by the breaking out of the first World War. That is twenty-four years ago. The years of 1917 and 1918 are not forgotten. This year 1941 marks again the beginning of a second world conflict to which several of the boys have answered the call. As memory takes us back to the years long since gone, and also to the present, we bow in humble recognition of their sacrifices for our country, and to their memory the congregation joins in dedicating this Honor Page.

Our Honor Page

First World War—1917-1918

RHODAN NELSON	AXEL ANDERSON	ANTON LARSEN
ABRAHAM NELSON	BEN GUNDERSON	THURMAN STINSON
ARTHUR W. ANDERSON	WALTER JENSON	JOHN ANDERSON
HARRY G. ANDERSON	CLARENCE HANSEN	LUDWIG HANSON
ALLEN W. ROBINSON	HOWARD ANDERSON	THEODORE HANSEN
FRED S. ROBINSON	CARL A. DYSLAND	CHARLES ERICKSON
JOHN G. LIER	HENRY HJORTH	EINAR JOHNSON
EDWIN A. LIER	HERMAN CHRISTIANSON	LEO OLSON
RICHARD JACOBSON	HAROLD PAULSON	FRED CHRISTIANSEN
HAROLD CEDARSTROM	MARVIN JACOBSON	HENRY ERICKSON
PETER D. LARSON	HAROLD D. SYNNE	JOHN E. ANDERSON
CLARENCE WARWICK	RUFUS JORGENSEN	ARTHUR NELSON
	STANLEY RAMSETT	

Second World War—1941-

ORVILLE K. HANSEN	NOEL OLSON	GLEN LARSEN
HAROLD N. HANSON	CHESTER JACOBSON	CLIFTON KOOLMO
GORDON K. JARSTAD	EUGENE R. JOHNSTON	WILLIAM ROTHE
DANIEL O. MAGNUSSEN	MARVIN G. BRISK	DONALD TENNANT
VINCENT J. MCSORLEY	WOODROW F. VANLANGENDON	ANFIN HALTUG
LE ROY KVALEY	ROBERT KNUTSON	ARTHUR BEYER

After this group left for the army, the Brotherhood meetings were discontinued until they returned in 1918. Since then the meetings have been held regularly once a month except for two months in the summer.

The objective is to bring men into the church. To do this the programs are adjusted to the likes of the members. Summer outings are called to mind: the fishing parties at Egg Harbor are well remembered, and so is the wiener roast at Vickery's Park at Suamico.

In 1935 a dart ball team was organized and is at present a member of the City Church league. In 1939 and 1940 the team was the winner of the trophy given for first place.

There are no membership dues. All the men and boys in the congregation are considered members. The cost of the refreshments is pro-rated on the ones attending.

Financially, the Brotherhood is interested in one outstanding annual event. This is the Lutefisk supper. The first public supper sponsored by the Brotherhood was held in the winter of 1930 and has been an annual event since then. This their first venture netted \$174.80. Copying from the records of that year reveals that the following items of food were consumed: 500 lbs. lutefisk, 1000 fattigmann, 20 lbs. coffee, 400 lbs. potatoes, 20 gallons milk, 5 gallons ice cream, one gross Eskimo pies, and 90 lbs. butter.

All the earnings of the Brotherhood are contributed to the general fund of the church. Among the several projects sponsored by them are: the remodelling of the kitchen and the purchase of three altar cloths. For two years the Viking Club was sponsored by them and they also paid for several Y.M.C.A. memberships for some of the boys.

On October 8, 1930, they joined the Brotherhood of the Lutheran Church of America on a 50-membership basis, and have since been active in all Brotherhood activities, both circuit, district and national.

The present officers are: John Hansen, President; Melvin Anderson, Vice-President; Peter Jorgensen, Treasurer; Adolph Anderson, S. S. Chairman.



LUTHER LEAGUE

Front row, left to right: Betty Anderson, Mildred Anderson, Evelyn Ellingson, Joan Scory, Audrey Baumgart, Jane Larsen, Audrey Tursky, Bernard DeCaster
 Second row: Elaine Kiedatz, Yvonne Johnson, Loretta Anderson, Dorothy Smith, Audrey Kiedatz, Chester Hansen, Audry Olsen, Oriana DeCaster
 Third row: Adolph Christenson, Hobart DeCaster, Emily Slang, Mildred DeCaster, Ann Berglund, Doris Larsen, Evelyn Ramsett, Marilyn Skrivseth, Irene Hanson
 Fourth row: Mrs. A. M. Christenson, Mr. A. M. Christenson, Betty DeCaster, Janet Skrivseth, Kathryn Ramsett, Lillian Ramseth, Ralph Peterson
 Fifth row: Glenn Larsen, Austin Evanson, Rev. Hanson, Helen Hanson, Orville Hansen, Arthur Thomas, Mark Hanson, Myron Hansen

Luther League

Our earliest records of a Young People's Society date back to February 3, 1900. The first officers were Olaf Olson, President; Jorgen Thompson, Vice-President; Albert Dysland, Secretary; Petra Erickson, Treasurer.

The charter members were Rev. Adolph Peterson, Rudolph Peterson, Jorgen Thompson, Martin Nelson, Albert Dysland, Gerhard Ellingson, Anton Johnson, Albert Amundson, John Dysland, Henry Dysland, Hanna Johnson, Nealie Anderson, Birdie Onsen, Abigail Olson, Caroline Erickson, and Emma Dysland.

The society met every two weeks, their meetings consisting of business and devotional programs. One of their first ventures was a Seventeenth of May celebration held at the church followed by a social hour in the I. O. G. T. Hall. In the following year, the same day was observed by a program featuring Prof. Rasmus B. Anderson of Madison, who spoke in commemoration of the day.

Social events in the form of box socials and ice cream socials helped a great deal in adding to the treasury funds. An excursion on the steamboat *John Denesen* increased the balance in the treasury to \$100.00.

In August, 1901, the society voted to install electric lights in the church. That the committee in charge had a keen business sense is proved when we find the early records reveal they were able to obtain two lights for the altar for less than \$8.00 and had another light installed free of charge.

Up to November, 1901, the minutes of the meetings are written in Norwegian. They reveal that this was the first organization within the congregation, but we find no further records of meetings until March 7, 1915, when activities were again revived and the name of Luther League was chosen.

On May 26, 1918, a special meeting was held in honor of the boys who were called into service during the World War I. On April 20, 1919, the records report that the League assumed the responsibility of caring for the church lawn. Shrubs, vines and trees greatly improved the lawns surrounding the new church edifice. The bulletin board in the entrance of the church was also a project of this organization, as well as the piano in the church auditorium. For a number of years the League conducted appropriate services on New Year's Eve for the young people of the church.

The present Luther League was organized in March, 1934. In June of that year they were hosts to the Circuit Y. P. L. L. convention, and each year sponsor the Easter Morning Sunrise Service and Breakfast. The Christmas Candlelight Service is another project given in conjunction with the Senior Choir.

Through the efforts of the League, the Concordia College Choir presented a concert in Washington Junior High in March, 1941. The Onaway Island Bible Camp at the Waupaca Chain of Lakes each year has a large representation from the Green Bay League and the conventions always have a large delegation in attendance. This diamond Jubilee year will find the Luther League again acting as hosts to the Circuit Convention on June 18-21.

The 1941 officers are Lillian Ramseth, President; Anne Berglund, Vice President; Emily Slang, Secretary; Mildred De Caster, Treasurer; Doris Larsen, Sunshine Chairman; Austin Evanson, Pocket Testament Secretary; Lois Larsen, Social Chairman.

—LILLIAN RAMSETH.



VIKING CLUB

Left to right: Carter Johnson, leader; Irwin Sheriff, Donald LaRoy, James White, Chester Hanson, Chester LeRoy

Viking Club

The Viking Club was organized in the fall of 1930 by members of a Sunday school class taught by Carter Johnson. The first meeting was held in one of the club rooms of the Y. M. C. A. Later this room was dedicated as the Viking Room. The following boys are its charter members: Austin Evanson, Maurice Anderson, Robert Ellingson, Willard Evanson and Dan Magnussen. Austin Evanson was elected its first president.

The purpose or aim of this club is to foster in the boys a personal interest in church by being of service to it, and to achieve an all-around development through participation in club activities, especially those which are conducive to the growth of Christian character.

The club met weekly, the first three meetings in the month being held at the Y. M. C. A. The program usually consisted of a business meeting, handicraft, gymnasium work-out and swimming. The last meeting in the month was held in the church basement. Besides the regular business meeting a speaker was

often secured. Many outstanding men in the community gave of their time to bring an interesting message to the boys. Games and refreshments were always a part of this special meeting. All Viking Club meetings were opened with the praying of the Lord's Prayer by the group.

On several occasions the club members were invited to the home of a member to celebrate a birthday.

Throughout the eleven years of the club's existence, it carried out projects designed to give service to the church. Below are listed several of these projects.

1931—Hymn book racks were made and attached to the back of all pews. (These were disposed of when the church was remodeled.)

1931—Started the check-room system for all large gatherings.

1933—Installed a large bulletin board on the corner of the church property.

1934—Purchased steel cabinet for use of club in church basement.

1934—Started the annual custom of Father and Son Banquet.

1935—Originated the Weekly Bulletin, continuing full responsibility for four years until the church council took over the work.

1937—Purchased mimeograph machine with stand.

1941—Installed hand-rail in front entrance of church.

1941—Installed electric lighting in the outdoor bulletin board

The revenues of the club were derived principally from dues and check-room tips. To make extra money the boys made and sold leather belts, bird houses and Christmas seals. The Men's Brotherhood on several occasions voted a sum of money to help the boys further their projects.

The following boys and men served as leaders at various times: Glenn Larsen, Austin Evanson, Raymond Amenson, Richard Jorgensen, Robert Pratt, Glenn Ethington, Frank Kangas, Leo Bordeleau, Jay Ramseth, Arnold Didrickson, Gordon Jarstad, Rev. Hanson, Harvey Scory and Ed. Christianson.

Those who served as sponsors or advisors from time to time were: M. A. Onstad, O. A. Olson, Rev. Hanson, Einar Ramseth, Henry Lawrence, Arnold Anderson and John Hansen.

Picnics, outings, sleighrides, camping trips and skiing parties were frequently enjoyed at the following places: Potowatamie Park, Kuske's cottage, Cady's Cherry Orchard at Egg Harbor, Shawano Lake, Baird's Creek, Pamperin Park, Ed. Hanson's farm, Sabo's farm, Jarstad's cottage on the Thunder River, and to the home of Carter Johnson.

Martin A. Onstad deserves special recognition for his devoted service to the boys through all the years of the club's existence. O. A. Olson served as Club

Treasurer for several years. Harvey Scory had charge of the Senior Vikings for one year and Gordon Jarstad had complete charge of Viking activities during the years 1939-1940. Miss Amanda Synnes printed the bulletins and otherwise assisted the club in preparing programs and mimeographed material for several years. Carter Johnson, who was instrumental in organizing the club, guided its activities for ten years, 1930-1939 and 1940-1941. Seventy-six boys of the church have taken active part as members of the club since its organization.

The Vikings took active part in basketball tournaments and in 1938 won the Junior Basketball Championship.

Several socials and entertainments were sponsored by the club. In 1932 a refreshment stand was operated at the Fair Grounds on the Sunday of the Circuit Mission Festival. A Viking Fair or Hobby Show was held in May, 1933, and on April 19, 1935, they presented Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Haterius in an illustrated lecture on "The Land of the Viking."

On March 22, 1937, Amos Shelsnes presented the club with a fine Viking Ship Model. Thomas Hanson, president, accepted the gift on behalf of the club. The ship is an accurate replica and has been encased in glass for safe keeping. Mr. Shelsnes has since passed away but this Viking ship stands as a testimonial to the fine craftsmanship of a true Viking.

CARTER JOHNSON.

Our Sister Organizations

St. John's at Ashwaubenon

St. John's Lutheran Congregation in Ashwaubenon was organized in 1873. It was made up of Scandinavian people—Norwegians and Danes—who had originally been members of the group in Fort Howard.

There were twenty charter members. The first officers were: Trustees: Olavus Anderson, Peter Larsen, Mikal Skjelstad, Nels Ingebretsen, Lawrence Thompson and John Eliason. Deacons: Alexander Ingebretsen, John Christensen and Ole Raffelsen.

The building of the first church was begun shortly after organization and was dedicated six years later, October 6, 1879. Ten years later in 1889 the tower was completed and the bell installed. The bell was originally used by the Episcopal Mission at Oneida, Wisconsin. In 1939 the electric organ was installed.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
at Ashwaubenon, Wis.

In 1928 the church was moved to its present location and placed on basement foundation. This made possible a modern heating plant and the parlors which are used for social gatherings.

A short distance from the church is a splendid piece of woodland purchased by the congregation in 1905. Here has been built a kitchen and refreshment stand which is extensively used for gatherings during the summer.

The cemetery grounds were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lorens Thompson and dedicated by Rev. Theo. H. Dahl in 1873.

A group known as the "Worthwhile Society" was active in 1913 and held social gatherings in the homes. The membership consisted of young ladies. They contributed much to the cost of many improvements.

This group was later merged with the Ladies' Aid whose present officers are Mrs. James Hansen, President; Mrs. Julius Olsen, Vice-President; Mrs. True Anderson, Secretary; and Mrs. John Johnson, Treasurer.

The Sunday school has been permanent since its organization in 1881.

Lorens Thompson was the first superintendent and continued in that capacity for thirty-four years until 1915 when he was succeeded by Wilmer Christopherson, the present superintendent.

The anniversaries have been observed with fitting ceremonies. The 25th was celebrated July 31, 1898. The first pastor and organizer of the congregation, Rev. Johan Olson, was present and delivered the sermon.

The 50th anniversary was formally celebrated June 23, 1923. Rev. Kvasse of Chicago preached. The Trinity Lutheran Choir, assisted by Professor and Mrs. Jorgen Thompson, sang and Rev. Espeseth of Manitowoc spoke in the afternoon.

The transition from the Norwegian to the English language took place in 1913. Since then, with the exception of once a month, all the services and Sunday school are conducted in the English language.

The present officers (1941): Hans C. Jacobson, Secy.; Anton Christianson, Treas. Trustees: J. O. Jacobson, Harold Thompson, Bennie Olson, Melvin Christopherson, Harold Paulson, Julius Olson. Deacons: Elmer Paulson, Melvin Erickson, True Anderson.

Zion at Glenmore

Zion's congregation in Glenmore was originally formed from Norwegian emigrants who came northward from the Valders settlement in Manitowoc county. The year of organization, 1877, this group consisted of: Ole and Knud Helgeson (Nesja), Tosten Nelson, Ole and Knud Severson, Ole Peterson Rogne

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942



ZION CHURCH
of Glenmore, Wis.

and his brother Ole Peterson, Anners Morken and his son Thomas, Isaiah Stetson, Christian Trondson Prestrud, Knud Jorgenson, Ole Rogne, Ole Olson and Andrew, Jule and Tory Snortum.

The first religious services were held in the homes and in the public school house and conducted by visiting pastors from New Denmark and Fort Howard.

The church building was begun in the year 1881 and dedicated in the fall of 1885. The church site and cemetery grounds were donated by Knud Helgeson.

The altar and pews were made to order at Green Bay. The pulpit is hand-made by Ole Severson, one of the charter members. This is the original and present furniture. After a period of fifty years it is a happy pleasure to recall its setting and repeat from memory the Norwegian words on the altar panel: "Hvor Elskelige er dine Boliger, Herre Sabaot."

During the late 90's the Young People's Society was organized and until 1899 was very active. Meetings were held semi-monthly at the homes and contributed much to the social life of the community.

The Ladies' Aid is the oldest organization within the church and was begun in 1884 at the home of Knud and Sigri Helgeson.

The charter members were: Mrs. Tom Nelson, Pres.; Mrs. Ole Helgeson, Mrs. Knud Helgeson, Mrs. Knud Severson, Mrs. Ole Severson, Mrs. Caroline Stetson, Miss Ragnild Anderson and Mrs. Ole Peterson.

When the pastor was absent, the meetings were opened in prayer by Mrs. Knud Helgeson. The objective of the Aid was to help financially. In 1884 the first sale was held at the home of Mrs. Knud Severson.

Among the many things donated to the church by the Aid are Thorvaldson's Statue of Christ in 1909, the Baptismal Font and the Silver Communion Set.

The present officers are: Mrs. Evan Rogney, Pres.; Mrs. John Severson, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Henrik Peterson, Secy.; Mrs. Arthur Seidl, Treas.

This chapter of history is only a very small part of the tribute that should be made in memory of our parents, who lived here and gathered in loyal Christian support of the church more than sixty years ago.

Our Saviors at Lily Lake

This congregation originally consisted of a small number of Norwegians and Danes who were settled around Cook's Mill in the Town of Eaton about 12 miles east of Green Bay. On March 5, 1875, they gathered at the home of Knud Sabo and organized the congregation. The constitution which had been prepared was formally signed by the following as charter members: Knud Sabo, Nels Petersen, Hans C. Jensen, Martin Rasmussen, Ole Olson, Lars Peterson, Lars Bjerke, Jens C. Hanson and Jorgen Hansen.

Originally, services were conducted by visiting pastors from New Denmark and Fort Howard. In 1882 Rev. Adolph Peterson was approved as their pastor and from then on they were a part of the Green Bay call.

The congregation did not become large enough to build a church, but services were held in the homes and in the district school house.

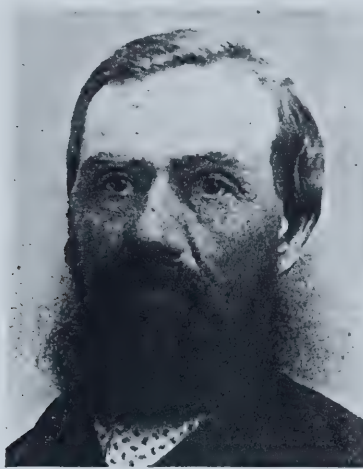
The Sunday school, the Missions and Synod to which they belonged received regular attention. In 1884 Knud Sabo was sent to a meeting at Fort Howard to elect a delegate to a Synod meeting in Chicago.

In 1889 arrangements were made that certain receipts should be divided equally between home and foreign missions and in 1892 an offering was taken up for Santal mission. Knud Sabo was the leader of this group. He was graduated as teacher from the University of Oslo and for seven years taught parochial school at Vigness, Norway. He came to America in 1871 and settled at Lily Lake

1867

After Seventy-five Years

1942



MR. KNUD SABO

Knud Sabo: Born in Valdres, Norway, October 20, 1832. Graduated from University of Oslo as teacher. Was for 12 years teacher at Vigness, Norway. Emigrated to America in 1871. In 1873 he settled at Lily Lake. Here he led the religious instruction of the pioneer children the rest of his active life. He died July 11, 1925 at 93 years of age.

two years later. Here he became the religious leader of the congregation and in the absence of the pastor led the people in religious services.

He was the head of the Sunday school which he conducted alone until some of his first pupils were confirmed and old enough to help as teachers.

He died July 11, 1925 at 93 years of age and left to his memory an outstanding example of true Christian manhood.

With the completion of improved highways in 1929 the congregation was discontinued and the remaining members joined the Trinity Lutheran congregation in the city.

Our Saviour's Congregation, Lessor

OUR SAVIOUR'S NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN congregation of Lessor, Shawano county, Wisconsin, was formally organized on December 26, 1872, at

the home of Marcus Erickson. The Rev. Johan Olson of Fort Howard (now Green Bay), who had made several previous visits to the Lessor settlement to conduct divine services, presided at the organization meeting and Tøllef Olson Oien acted as secretary pro tem.

A full slate of officers was elected as follows: Trustees: Tøllef Olson Oien, Christopher Christopherson, and Clement Bersvenson; Deacons: Tøllef Pederson and Ole Wahl; Secretary: Jørgen Pederson; Treasurer: Bersven Bersvenson.

Those signing the organization papers, thus becoming charter members were: Tøllef Olson Oien, Tøllef Pederson, Christian O. Sherbeck, Bersven Bersvenson, Clement Bersvenson, Jørgen Pederson, Sven Johnson, Edward Markusson, Erik Helgeson, Christopher Christopherson, Ole Wahl, Marcus Erickson, Lars Larson and Ole Lærfald. Admitted to voting membership at this first meeting were Peter Jommen, Ole Erickson and Ole Christianson.

By unanimous vote of those present, the call which had previously been extended to Rev. T. H. Dahl was officially approved.

It was decided at this meeting that until a suitable church building could be provided, one-half of the services were to be held in the school house of District No. 1, Town of Lessor (then located one-half mile north of the present site of the church) and the other half in the home of Tøllef Olson Oien.

The congregation voted in 1875 to adopt the Constitution of the Norwegian-Danish Conference and made formal application for membership in that Synod. This synodical connection has been maintained, going with the main body into the United Lutheran Church of America in 1892 and into the present Norwegian Lutheran Church of America in 1917.

A building fund to provide a church was initiated at the 1877 meeting and actual construction began in 1882. During that year the foundation was laid and the frame of the main structure was built and completed to the extent that services could be held there, in the summer. In 1883 it was plastered and services were conducted there continually thereafter.

The vestry and steeple were added in 1892 and the completed building was dedicated on September 18.

During this time the Rev. Dahl had resigned and had been succeeded by Rev. Adolph Peterson in 1881. It was Rev. Peterson who presented the congregation with the pulpit as a Christmas gift in 1889. Also during this period, a Ladies' Aid and a Young People's Society had been organized. The bell which had been installed before the dedication was the gift of the Young People's society.

In 1897 a celebration was held, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the

organizing of the congregation. For this occasion the Rev. Johan Olson, who had helped in its organization, returned to deliver the Jubilee sermon.

The altar which is still in use was presented to the congregation by the Young People's Society in 1899. The old altar which had been a gift of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Green Bay was given to Owego with the consent of the Green Bay congregation.

By mutual consent, the charge which up to 1913 had included Green Bay, Ashwaubenon, Glenmore, Lily Lake, Owego and Lessor, was in that year divided and Owego and Lessor joined to form a new charge. It was then that a residence was built for use as a parsonage on property acquired for that purpose in 1894. The following year a barn was built for the pastor's use on the same property. The first pastor to serve the newly formed charge and to occupy the new parsonage was the Rev. Jacob Frohlin.

The congregation's 50th Anniversary was celebrated in 1923. At that time there was no regular pastor, but Rev. Ivar Ramseth, a son of the congregation, returned home to conduct the morning service and to take part with Rev. P. E. Bongsto, a former pastor, in the less formal afternoon program.

In the summer of 1928 the church was moved off the cemetery, across the highway, onto property adjacent to the parsonage. Here it was placed onto a newly built basement, housing a heating plant, a modern kitchen and dining room.

A misfortune of major proportion was suffered in 1932 when fire entirely destroyed the parsonage and a considerable amount of the pastor's furniture; however, a somewhat larger and more modern residence was built in the same year to replace it.

During 1941 the congregation received a substantial legacy from the Estate of Andrew and Sophia Johnson, former members, which has been used to retire the congregation's debt and to make extensive improvements to the church building and grounds.

Religious instruction has always been stressed throughout the congregation's existence. One to two months of parochial school has been conducted regularly, supplemented by Sunday school. The first Sunday school was organized in 1896, but this was conducted more or less irregularly for a number of years. Since 1928, however, Sunday school has been a regular part of Sabbath observance.

As concrete evidence that the labors of pastors, teachers and other loyal workers has borne spiritual fruit, three sons of the congregation have answered the call of the Lutheran ministry and are now serving in that capacity. They are:

Rev. Ivar Ramseth, Waseca, Minn.; Rev. Erling R. Jacobson, Missoula, Mont.; Rev. Axel Blom, Green Valley, Wis.

From the organization, and up to 1914, divine services were regularly held in the Norwegian language. Beginning in 1914, the Norwegian language and the English language were used alternately. Since 1935 English has been used exclusively.

As in most congregations, the Ladies' Aid has since its organization in 1899 worked diligently in its support of the congregation, having contributed liberally toward local as well as synodical expenses, and having financed many individual projects. Among these may be especially mentioned the furnishing of the kitchen and dining room and the re-decorating of the church interior.

Another organization whose help has been considerable is the Young People's society organized in 1891. Its original purpose was to provide social opportunity for the community's young people and to give financial aid to the congregation. About 1911 it gradually developed into a Luther League and is so known now. Its meetings now are both spiritual and social.

The L. D. R. was organized in 1935 and the Men's Brotherhood in 1936, and both are functioning regularly at present.

Since 1914, when the charge made up of Lessor and Owego came into existence, the following pastors have served: Rev. Jacob Frohlin (now deceased) 1914-1919; Rev. H. J. Wang, now retired and residing in Northfield, Minn., 1920-1923; Rev. Theo. Bergee, now pastor in Glendon, Alberta, Canada, 1924-1926.

Rev. Walter Gigstad succeeded Rev. Bergee in 1926 and served until December 29, 1940, when he accepted a call to the pastorate at Clifton, Texas, where he now resides.

The present pastor is Rev. O. A. Hofstad who conducted his first service May 4, 1941.

STANLEY RAMSETT.

Owego Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE OWEGO SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN congregation was begun about 1871 when the brothers Christ and Hans Hanson settled there and commenced to clear land and build homes. Shortly after this, others began to arrive and among them were: Volf Hansen, Andrew Nissen, Swen Christensen, Hans Lausten, Christian Knudsen, John Christopherson, Claus Endrup, Anders Hansen, Christian Valentine, Niels Jacobsen, Truls Trulson, Peter Anderson, Arve Arveson, Lauretz Krogh, Mons Bentsen, Christian Mikkelsen, Hans Nilsen,

Anders Rasmussen, Rasmus Nelson, Paul Madsen, A. G. Nelson, Anders Clausen, Paul Larsen, Hans Larsen, Lauritz Olson, Peter Petersen and August Anderson.

Their first religious services were supplied by Rev. Johan Olson who upon request came from Fort Howard to officiate at weddings and funerals and occasionally held services in the homes.

Another group known as Immanuel Lutheran congregation was located in and about Laney. They also required religious services.

April 16, 1873 Rev. Theo. H. Dahl preached his first sermon in Lessor and no doubt visited both the Owego and Laney congregations on his way from Fort Howard.

At this time some of the Laney group were accepted as members by the Owego congregation. From then on regular services were held at both Owego and Laney.

In 1876 Owego had six services and Laney had seven. All but four of which were held on week days since the Sundays were taken up with services in the city.

In October, 1890, the movement for a church building was started. Christ Hansen took the lead in this undertaking by soliciting funds and donating the land upon which the church is built.

The building committee consisted of Christ Hansen, Peter Hansen and A. G. Nielsen. Peter Petersen was elected to have charge of the construction which was to be with the help of other members and to begin at once.

On June 19, 1891, the congregation was incorporated. The name was now changed from "Danish Ev. Lutheran" to its present form.

In 1895 services at Laney were discontinued and several from there joined with Owego.

Since the separation from the Green Bay call in 1913, the history as to pastors and services had been parallel with that of the Lessor congregation with which they have since formed an independent call.

The Ladies' Aid was organized in 1920, and the Sunday school was begun in 1928.

Both of these organizations function regularly and add much to the upbuilding and maintenance of the congregation.

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